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SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY
Volume I: Reconnaissance Survey

Bramwell, West Virginia

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Volume I: Reconnaissance Survey
Bramwell, West Virginia

December 1992

United States Department of the Interior • National Park Service • Denver Service Center

Regional Map

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This Special Resource Study has been prepared to provide basic information about the historic resources in Bramwell, West Virginia, as a basis for evaluation and a determination of whether the area merits additional and more detailed study by the National Park Service. It also identifies options for protection of the town's resources, including application of National Park Service criteria for significance, suitability and feasibility preliminary to possible inclusion in the national park system. Other options for protection and overall development through non-federal involvement are included as well.

The study concludes that Bramwell, West Virginia, does not possess national significance in any of the five themes with which it is associated: Business, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Technology and American Ways of Life. Bramwell has three historic structures (a bank, land office and Masonic Hall) that well represent Theme XII, Business (Subtheme A, Extractive or Mining Industries; Facet 3, Other Metals and Minerals); (Subtheme E, Finance and Banking; Facet 1, Commercial Banks; Facet 9, General Finance); and (Subtheme K, Business Organization).

The establishment of a national park in Bramwell would have profound and probably undesirable impacts on the community. Additionally, it would be difficult to provide a quality experience for visitors in Bramwell without the development of a major visitor service area outside of town. A traditional national park in Bramwell is neither suitable nor feasible.

Economic redevelopment and appropriate resource preservation and interpretation can be achieved within the present status of the community, possibly in the context of the southern West Virginia Coal Mining Heritage initiative and/or other cooperative ventures currently being carried forward.

Bramwell, in priority order, needs the following:

- An interpretive plan done as a component of the Heritage Tourism Demonstration Project and/or the Southern West Virginia Coal Mining Heritage initiative. The plan would be developed through technical assistance indicating Bramwell's links to other key sites and interpretive themes in the region and would lead to a fuller understanding of coal mining history.

- A community workshop process through which townspeople identify long- and short-term goals and examine alternative choices for achievement.

- Technical assistance in research, planning and the development of financial strategies for preservation and interpretation.

- Appointment of an action group or individual to coordinate activities.

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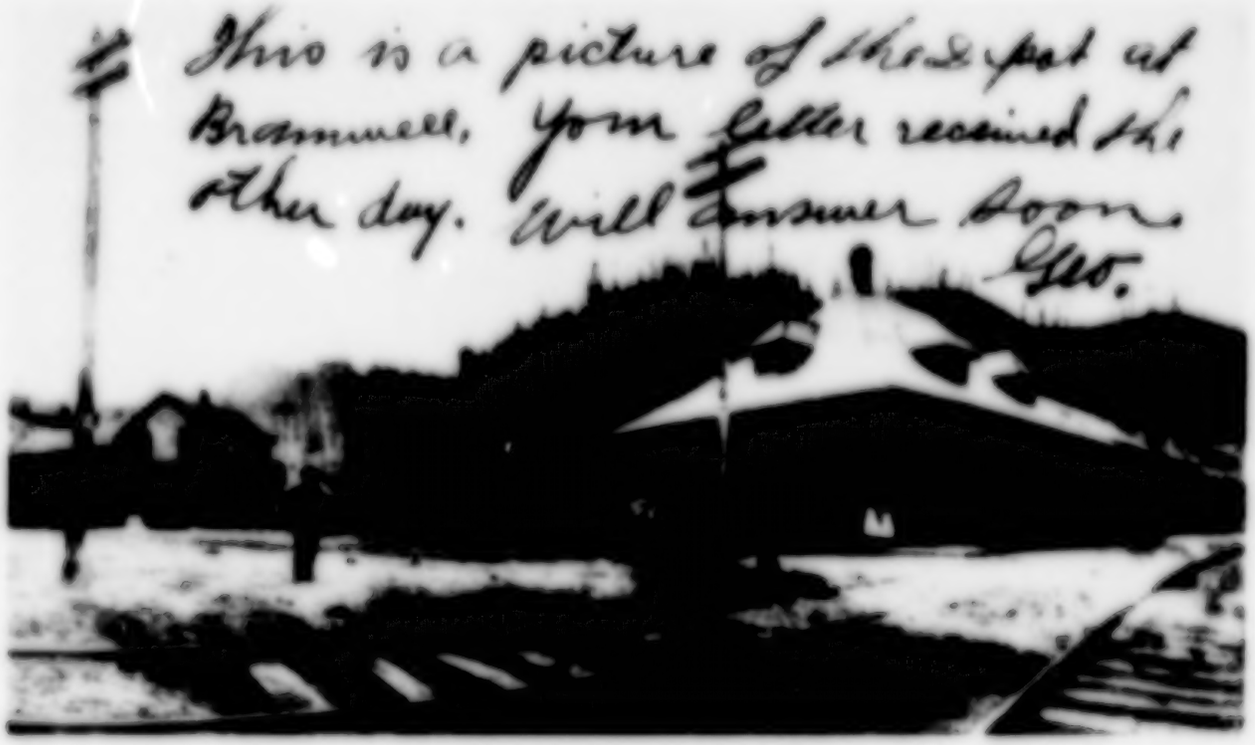

Norfolk-Western Railroad Station before 1920.
Courtesy of Louise Stoker, Bramwell, West Virginia.

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INTRODUCTION

On June 6, 1990, Congressman Nick Joe Rahall, II, 4th District, West Virginia, introduced legislation (H.R. 4978) in the 101st Congress authorizing the establishment of a national park in Bramwell, West Virginia. After hearings, the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands, directed the preparation of a study. The Senate Appropriations Committee report on the Department of the Interior (October 16, 1990) recommended funds be made available to conduct a new area study for Bramwell. On January 29, 1991, Congressman Rahall reintroduced similar legislation in the 102nd Congress (H.R. 692 – see appendix A).

A task directive, dated August 19, 1991, was prepared and submitted for approval. That document designed the study as a two-part activity – the first part being a reconnaissance survey and the second part an alternatives assessment. This document is the Reconnaissance Survey. It has been prepared under contract number CX-2000-0-0006, work order number 59.

The purpose of this study is to provide specific data for the resources being studied with particular reference to issues of feasibility and management interests. Additionally, the study provides an evaluation of resource significance and its relationship to criteria for park lands. Finally, the study displays a range of future actions that might be undertaken for resource management and protection by local, state, or private initiatives, independently or in combination.

The study area includes all resources identified within the Bramwell, West Virginia, National Register Historic District, most of which lies within the Bramwell municipal limits. A portion of the community was listed in the national register as a district in 1983. Inventory forms for that nomination are included in appendix B of this study. Because the national register nomination emphasized architecture over historic background, a major task of this study has been to define the historical context for the structures in the district.

Volume I of this study begins with a brief historical narrative to provide historical context for the resources, followed by summary material for the community. In volume II, individual site forms provide specific data relating to each structure and its surroundings within the historic district. Data includes histories of the buildings' occupants, where these were known. Also included is observed data on building condition and integrity provided for management evaluation and for the possible development of gross cost estimates.

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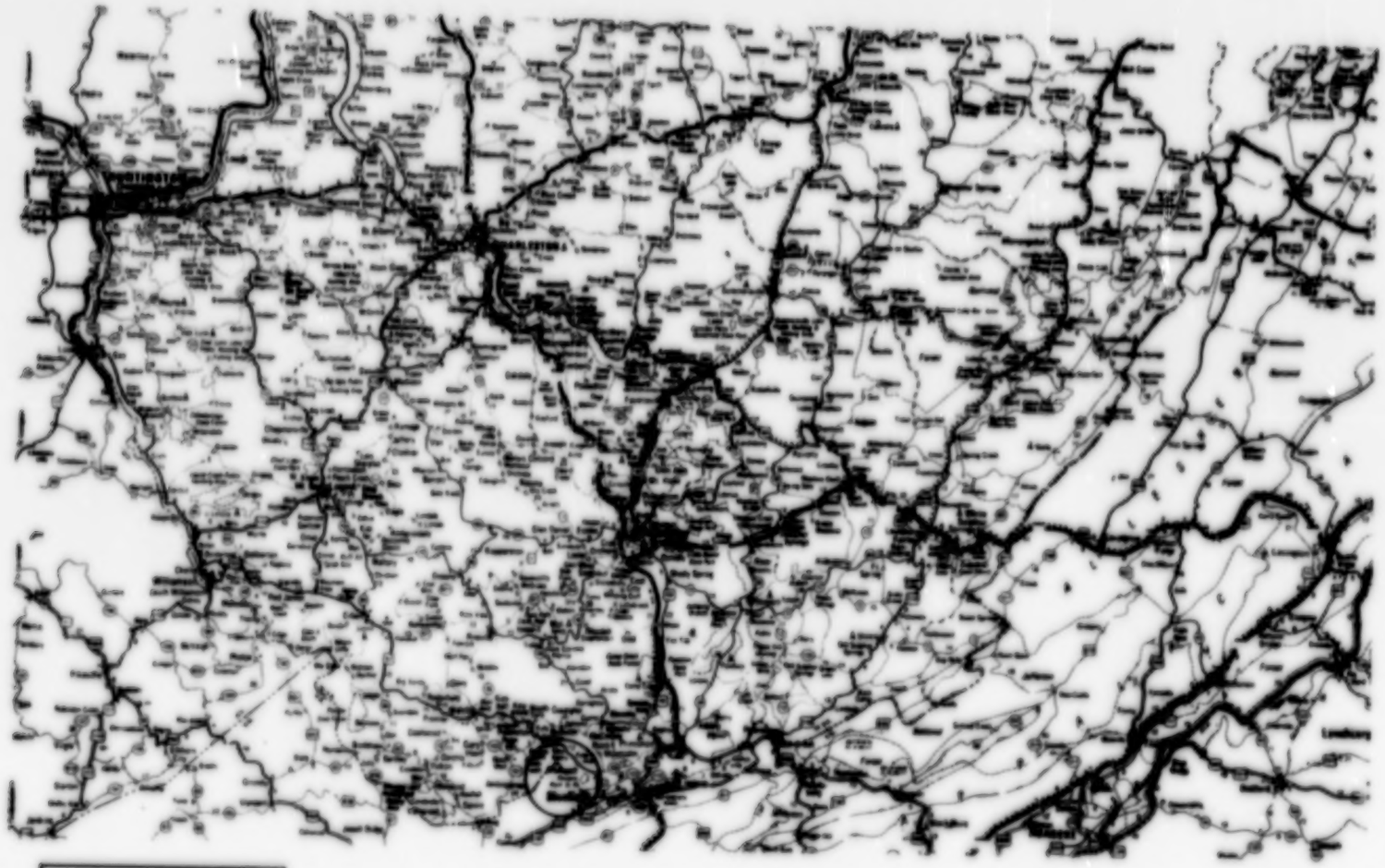


Vicinity and Highway Map, Bramwell, West Virginia.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The mountainous landscape of southern West Virginia surrounding the town of Bramwell historically discouraged Euro-American entry into the region. In the mid-19th century, it was roadless and sparsely settled. Trails wound between clustered or isolated cabins that were separated from each other by as much as eight miles. Subsistence farming provided a livelihood for settlers. An occasional blacksmith took coal from a convenient outcrop for use in his trade.

During the Civil War, Virginians entered the area and took note of the frequent evidence of coal along the stream banks that had cut through the mountainous terrain. After the war, a group of them sent investigators to the area to evaluate the timber and mineral resources. Both Major Jedediah Hotchkiss and Captain I.A. Welch surveyed 480 square miles of the Wilson-Cary-Nichols land grant (dating from the revolutionary war), and traced impressive evidence of coal along the course of practically every river and stream. The reports made by these men in 1871-1873 triggered interest among potential developers from Virginia and soon thereafter from Philadelphia. All realized that any successful mining venture depended upon the development of transportation systems to bring the coal to markets. As a result, early development efforts centered not only on land acquisition, but also on railroad building.

The Wilson-Cary-Nichols land grant was lost by its owners after the Civil War when they defaulted on West Virginia state taxes. The state sold the lands to finance schools, offering them at about the time the field investigations of Hotchkiss and Welch indicated their great mineral value. Philadelphian Thomas Graham was among the first to secure these coal lands at the same time he was acquiring the controlling interest in the Atlantic, Mississippi and Ohio Railroad (AM&O), which had been created by a group of Virginians to penetrate the previously inaccessible coal fields. Graham appears to have been a key figure in refocusing coal field development from Virginia to Philadelphia. The AM&O Railroad soon passed through foreclosure into the control of E.W. Clark & Company, a Philadelphia bank. Partners in that bank were Clarence H. Clark and Frederick J. Kimball. These men transformed the AM&O into the Norfolk and Western Railroad (N&W) and, with Philadelphia and British capital, began acquiring additional coal lands, among them the tracts owned by original surveyor Jedediah Hotchkiss as well as those purchased by Thomas Graham.

Thus, the scene was set for opening the Pocahontas-Flat Top Coalfield. In 1881, the Southwest Virginia Improvement Company, a mining operation with land ownership (the Bluestone Coal Co.), was established by E.W. Clark & Company. Soon thereafter, an associated land owning company, the Flat Top Coal Company, was formed with Philadelphian Thomas Graham as vice president. That firm began construction of the first mine tipple, coke ovens and the town of Pocahontas in Tazewell County, Virginia. The N&W Railroad began its line to Pocahontas in 1881, completing it in 1883.

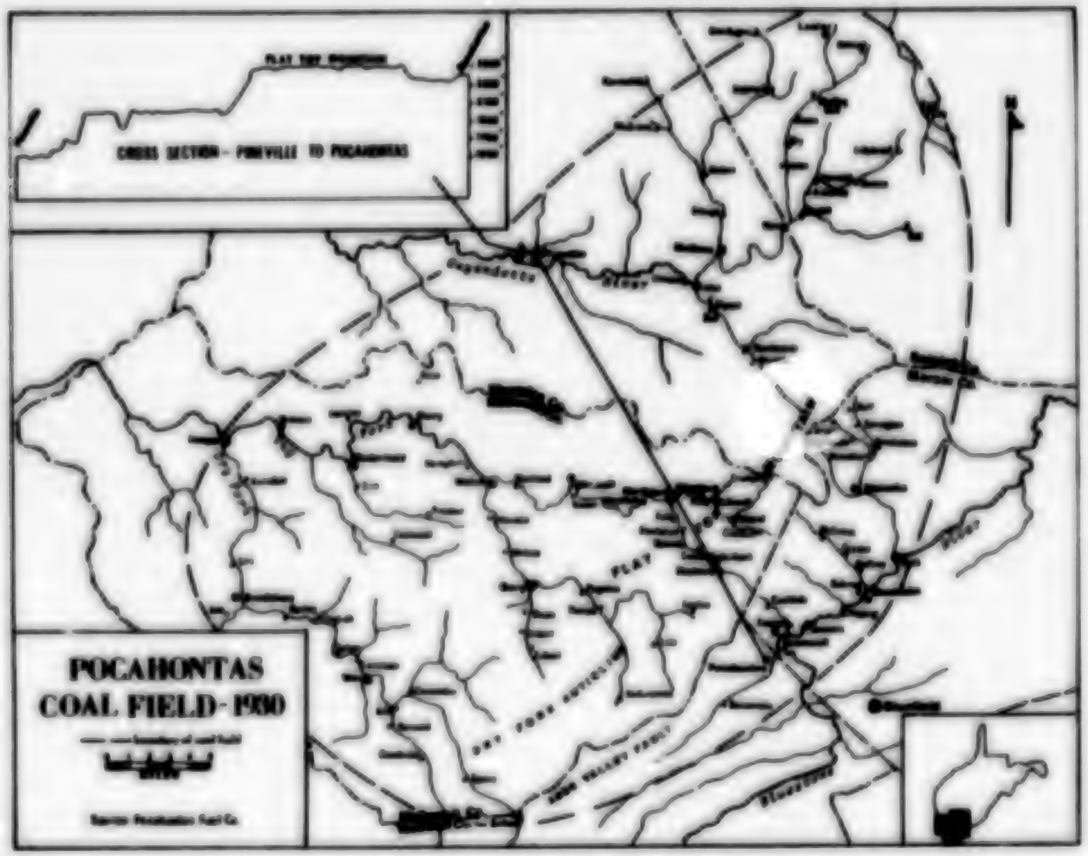
With one mine in production, the Flat Top Company turned to the opening of other mines. Whether motivated by concern for the implications of monopoly, the desire to exploit the coalfield quickly, or the wish to avoid becoming involved in highly technical mining operations, the firm decided to lease its coal lands to individual operators. This decision was the catalyst that resulted in the establishment of Bramwell, West Virginia.

The opportunity drew mine operators from the coalfields of Pennsylvania, where coal lands were being purchased by railroads to assure a freight transport. Faced with shrinking opportunities for ventures in Pennsylvania, men with mining experience (many of them immigrants from England and Wales), eagerly undertook leases offered on coal lands in West Virginia. At first, leases were offered for about 1,000 acres and required an operator to build one coke oven for each 10 acres of land.

Among early lessees in the Pocahontas-Flat Top field were John Cooper in partnership with J.L. Beury (Mill Creek Coal & Coke Co.), John Freeman in partnership with Jenkin Jones (Caswell Creek Coal & Coke Co.), and Jonathan P. Bowen in partnership with William Booth (Booth Bowen Coal & Coke Co.). In many instances, the capital for opening the mines was supplied by the land-owning firm run by the Philadelphians who in reality controlled the coalfield.

The Flat Top Coal Company had maintained an office in Pocahontas, Virginia, where field operations in land management were conducted. Because most of the coal lands were in West Virginia, the firm determined to move its operation to that state in 1884, selecting and purchasing land on the Bluestone River, just inside the West Virginia state boundary and just outside the coalfield itself. A town was laid out and named Bramwell, for the Flat Top Company's local superintendent, J.H. Bramwell. Company offices were located there (in the structure now functioning as the Bluestone Inn on Main Street). Lots were sold to individuals for commercial and domestic construction, although it appears that the Flat Top Company determined who should buy them and for what purpose. The town was clearly intended to provide offices for managing the company's interests, housing for the families whose duties were serving those interests, and the service and retail facilities needed to make the community comfortable. It was, in short, a company town for Flat Top Coal Company operations and employees. Most mine operators, the lessee-producers of the coal, lived near their mines during this time. C.H. Duhring, a local Flat Top manager, was an early Bramwell resident, as was I.A. Welch, one of the first surveyors of the coal seams and a man who appears to have retained some kind of association with the Philadelphia interests throughout his life. Both of their houses are now gone, as is the original 1885 Bluestone Inn, built to accommodate business visitors and, later, families awaiting completion of their residences.

Three events in the years 1886-1887 transformed Bramwell's direction. First, in 1886, the N&W Railroad, the Flat Top Land Company, and the four original lessees of coal lands and operators of coal mines (Southwest Virginia Improvement Company, John Cooper & Company, Freeman & Jones, and William Booth and Company) agreed that the railroad should organize a subsidiary company (The Pocahontas Coal Company) to market all coal from the field. These nerve center offices were located at first in the structure now adjacent to the Masonic Hall. By 1895, they were located on the first floor of the Masonic Hall. Next, in 1887, the N&W completed its line into McDowell County, opening that previously inaccessible rich portion of the field to development. Finally, in the same year, the Clark interests in Philadelphia consolidated their two land-owning companies (the Southwest Virginia Development Company and the Flat Top Coal Company) into a single firm, the Flat Top Coal Land Association. The new firm owned most of the coal lands in the Pocahontas-Flat Top field.



The Pocahontas-Flat Top Coalfield, 1930.
Courtesy of Eastern Regional Coal Archives, Bluefield, West Virginia.

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After 1887, mining in the Pocahontas field expanded quickly. Four mines were located there before 1887; eight years later, there were 38. Many of the new operators lived close to their newly opened mines. As their operations stabilized and prospered over the next two decades, some chose to build grander homes in Bramwell, where they might live in a more benign environment near others sharing their status and interests. For the operators, this move meant traveling to their mines and hiring superintendents for onsite management in exchange for close proximity to the representatives of the landowners, marketing agencies and financiers, all of whom were centered in Bramwell. The Bank of Bramwell was formed in 1889, hard on the heels of the events of 1886-1887. The bank was capitalized chiefly by C.H. Duhring and James E. Mann, a landed West Virginian from Greenbrier County who also owned coal land in Fayette County. Other capitalists, such as J.P. Morgan, Collis P. Huntington, Edward H. Harriman, and John D. Rockefeller, were engaged in railroad building to open up the coal mines in Fayette County. (The possibility of a connection between Mann and the Clark interests in Philadelphia, that would have been represented by Duhring, presents an intriguing subject for investigation because of the potential competitive struggle.) James Mann installed a cousin, I.T. Mann, as cashier of the newly formed bank and the young man moved his family to Bramwell to begin a long career in financing coal operators, ultimately becoming one himself.

The nationwide depression of 1893-94 weakened the Clark-N&W Railroad domination of the Pocahontas field. Poor business conditions encouraged the railroad to offer operators lower prices for coal, to which they responded by forming an association for the purpose of negotiating with the railroad. In 1895, West Virginia passed an act prohibiting railroads from marketing coal and the operators were left without an agent to sell their product. They formed The Pocahontas Company to operate in lieu of the Norfolk & Western Pocahontas Coal Company. This marketing organization was also headquartered in Bramwell.

By 1900, Bramwell had become the center for coal mining operations in the Pocahontas-Flat Top field. The Bank of Bramwell occupied one corner at Main and Bloch Streets. The Pocahontas Company took offices to manage marketing on the first floor of the Masonic Hall, and the land company negotiated leases next door for the coal lands. The Norfolk and Western, alone among the powers in the coalfield, limited its Bramwell presence to its station, maintaining corporate offices in Bluefield.

As coal operators moved to Bramwell, so did other professional and quasi-professional personnel such as doctors, teachers, ministers and store keepers. Houses rose in close order on the flat land formed by the Bluestone River bend, then climbed the hillsides for more spacious surroundings overlooking the busy center of town.

As the 20th century began, Bramwell's future seemed to rest largely in the hands of I.T. Mann. By then in control of the largest locally owned mining operation in the Pocahontas field, Mann succeeded in purchasing the lands owned by the Flat Top Coal Land Association and selling them in turn to the N&W Railway at a 100% profit. (The possible association of Mann with J.P. Morgan interest in this transaction again encourages further study.) For Bramwell, however, the deal spelled ultimate decline. In 1910, the N&W Railroad moved the land leasing company offices (now called The Pocahontas Coal and Coke Company) to its offices in Bluefield. Only the year before, some operators participating in the Pocahontas Company withdrew and entered into marketing agreements with other

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1 inch = 2,400 feet

Location map – Bramwell, Coopers, Freeman, and Simmons, West Virginia

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1 inch = 2,400 feet

Location map - Branwell, Coopers, Freeman, and Simmons, West Virginia

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Bramwell, looking southeast, about 1960.
Courtesy of Grubb Photo Service, Bluefield, West Virginia.

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TRENDS, CURRENT PLANS AND THREATS

PLANS AND OBJECTIVES OF CURRENT OWNERS

The plans of current owners, if known, are included on the individual resource inventory forms in volume II of this study. Most properties are well cared for and exhibit, with only six exceptions, few serious problems or threats to their survival. Two commercial structures, one church and three houses have serious structural problems beyond the ability of present owners to manage. However, the greatest overall threat to the community's architectural resources is not neglect but ad hoc maintenance decisions dictated by economic or architectural practicality.

In the long run, some jeopardy to Bramwell's resources exists from the region's overall economic decline. Stuart McGehee (Eastern Regional Coal Archives) believes that upper middle-class families will continue to disappear in southern West Virginia, leaving Bramwell's large houses in the hands of owners who cannot afford to maintain them.

STATUS IN PLANS OF OTHER AGENCIES

There are no land use plans, zoning or regulations in Mercer County, nor does the county or Bramwell have a planning office or a planner.

The National Park Service, Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, has conducted a study of coal mining heritage under Public Law 100-699. In Bramwell, in the spring of 1991, the regional office co-sponsored a "Coal Heritage Celebration," a series of workshops and scholarly meetings. Bramwell was identified in the study as a key interpretive site.

The American Folklife Center has been conducting research for a cultural heritage center at New River Gorge National River, and their work includes Bramwell.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has participated with the state of West Virginia in a heritage tourism demonstration for an area that includes Bramwell.

The Soil Conservation Service has been working with the West Virginia Southern Soil Conservation District and landowners in the Bluestone River watershed to improve water quality and reduce soil erosion. The Office of Surface Mining has been engaged in similar efforts in the Bramwell vicinity.

There is no longer any active mining near Bramwell, and therefore no involvement by any of the several federal agencies that regulate mining. Because no coal underlies Bramwell, there is no possibility of subsidence.

Although the Bluestone River runs in a very deep channel through Bramwell, it did overflow once in 1964, flooding some basements in its bend and destroying or severely damaging family records. The Corps of Engineers does not have any flood contingency plans that involve Bramwell at the present time.

Bramwell has never had a sewage treatment plant and is in violation of the Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended. The Environmental Protection Agency and the West Virginia Pollution Control Board have obtained a court order requiring the city to stop polluting the Bluestone River by October 1992. Sewer lines have been laid and plans are under

review for a treatment plant to be located on the banks of the Bluestone in the town's historic district. The plant was to be built in the summer of 1992.

With the exception of the above, and this study, there is no other direct federal involvement in the Bramwell community, except for the possible involvement of the Federal Highway Administration in the planning for four-lane highways.

PUBLIC INTEREST AND SUPPORT

West Virginia's congressional delegation is unanimous in its support of Congressman Rahall's bill to establish a national park in Bramwell. In addition, Congressman Frederick Boucher (VA) has indicated support for the measure as well.

Four key local citizens were interviewed on the matter of public support for the bill. Mayor H. Dan Murphy believes that most Bramwell residents support the idea, although he acknowledges that most probably do not fully understand its implications for the community. He believes that Bramwell would welcome the economic benefits and that these would offset the possible negative aspects.

Stuart McGehee, Director of the Eastern Regional Coal Archives, agrees. McGehee, however, is a bit more skeptical about local citizen tolerance for the changes NPS management might bring to their community.

Louise Stoker, Bramwell Millionaires Garden Club, is a leading proponent of the park concept outlined in the bill. She, too, is confident of local support and acceptance but acknowledges that such a development would bring about changes. Stoker feels that local residents would "get used to it."

Robert Barnett, editor of the *Bramwell Aristocrat*, agrees that most locals would support a national park presence, although he is opposed for personal reasons. Barnett is acutely aware of the changes an NPS presence would produce in the community, which he chose as a place of retirement for its quiet, small town life style. Barnett believes that some segments of the population neither "know nor care" about the congressional initiative for a national park, even though his newspaper has given the plan extensive coverage. Barnett measured the economic plight of Bramwell when he said several houses had been for sale "for a long time." He, too, is aware of potential economic benefits. Barnett stated that the United Mine Workers is a very strong, pro-active organization in the region but did not volunteer to predict union support or opposition.

None of the local citizens interviewed above reported knowledge of the local ethnic and minority populations' interest in Congressman Rahall's bill, nor does there appear to be any relationship between the site and known administration directives, except the Environmental Protection Agency's clean water initiative.

CURRENT STATUS

There are a number of local history publications related to Bramwell. For the most part, these are devoted to biography and local lore and do not provide historical analysis or perspective. One scholarly study exists in unpublished form: Beth Ann Hager's 1984 thesis for the University of Delaware, "Bramwell, West Virginia. Development of a Coal Operator's Town," is an excellent work that provides a good historical overview of the town and some of its inhabitants.

Bramwell is among the towns listed in Michael E. Workman's 1991 study, "Historical Context for the Coal Heritage Survey," prepared for the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office as part of a National Park Service study of coal mining heritage. Bramwell is not described as a company town, but rather as an incorporated town containing buildings associated with the coal industry.

Other materials consulted in connection with Bramwell are listed in the bibliography. None are specifically concerned with West Virginia's bituminous coal industry.

All resources evaluated in this study lie within the boundary of the Bramwell National Register Historic District. In that designation, 18 structures were identified as having "primary" significance and 75 as "secondary." These designations are noted on the individual property forms.

Work is underway on a national historic landmark nomination to expand the boundaries of the district to include the adjacent historic mining communities of Freeman, Simmons and Coopers, as well as all other historic resources within Bramwell's municipal limits (see map on page 7). The task is being done by local professionals and it is expected that the forms will be finished in 1992 to document the communities' potential to meet National Historic Landmark criteria, as well as provide complete recordation of residences for Pocahontas's coal mine operators and managers.

Because many of the resources associated with the first mine operators in the Pocahontas-Flat Top Coal Field (especially John Cooper, John Freeman, Jenkin Jones and J.P. Bowen) may lie outside Bramwell's present municipal limits, it is possible that the landmark nomination will not inventory all sites associated with the opening and operation of the Pocahontas Flat Top mines.

No comprehensive archeological survey of the area has been completed.

Two resources in Bramwell, not specifically identified in the national historic district, should be reconsidered for such recognition. One is a garage and gas station on Main Street. The other is the garden associated with the Mann Playhouse (Number 56). It is a highly designed landscape that may have been patterned after the 19th century gardens of English country houses.

Main Street, Bramwell, West Virginia, March 24, 1888.
Courtesy of Grubb Photo Service, Bluefield, West Virginia.

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PRELIMINARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

The preservation of Bramwell's historic and cultural resources is the goal of most of its citizens as well as of all public officials concerned with the community. One method of achieving that goal is to include Bramwell in the national park system, the avenue proposed by Congressman Rahall's bill introduced in the 102nd Congress.

National Park Service management policies have established criteria for national significance, suitability and feasibility to guide the addition of units to the nation's park system. Derived from criteria established for the national historic landmark program, four criteria must be met for prospective areas to be considered for inclusion in the National Park Service.

Each potential resource must:

1. [Be] an outstanding example of a particular type of resource.

2. [Possess] exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the natural or cultural themes of our nation's heritage.

3. [Offer] superlative opportunities for recreation, public use and enjoyment or for scientific study.

4. [Retain] a high degree of integrity as a true, accurate and relatively unspoiled example of a resource.

CRITERION 1 - OUTSTANDING RESOURCE

Bramwell may meet the requirements of criterion 1 as the on-site management center for the mining of a nationally important coal and is outstanding because three of the four structures most important to that feature of the town have survived.

In her evaluation of the significance of Kay Moor and Kay Moor Number 1 coal mine, NPS Historian Sharon A. Brown (National Park Service "Kay Moor, New River Gorge National River") specifies the importance of coal in the United States from 1850 into the 20th century in relation to the growing use of steam power for locomotion on both land and water, as well as for the energy to drive standing industrial engines. The bituminous coal of West Virginia eventually supplied a large share of this energy source because it was abundant, easier to mine than anthracite, lay horizontal to the ground surface allowing drifted mining, and was cheaper due to the makeup of the labor force and the absence of its unionization. (See Suitability Section pp. 27-30 for additional discussion of other Appalachian coal towns.)

Michael Workman, in his study, "Historical Context For The Coal Heritage Survey," endorses Brown's evaluation. In addition, he cited the superior quality of West Virginia bituminous coal, stating that some of it was recognized as ". . . the best in the world." He noted that coal from the Pocahontas-Flat Top No. 3 seam was ". . . highly prized for metallurgical purposes." These factors, as well as its abundance and low cost, resulted in southern West Virginia coal dominating the national market from 1927 to 1973.

Main Street, Bramwell, West Virginia, before 1910.
Courtesy of Grubb Photo Service, Bluefield, West Virginia.

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Summarizing, Workman states,

> West Virginia coal has fed the boilers of the nation's trains, factories, fleets and power plants. As a processed fuel, coke, it has satisfied the enormous appetites of the nation's iron furnaces. It has been a basis for the tremendous growth of the American economy in the twentieth century, and played a critical role in sustaining America's "arsenal of democracy" in wartime.

Within the United States are three major coal fields containing over 30-40% of the world's known coal reserves: Appalachia, Mid-Continent, and Rocky Mountain. The Appalachian field, 70,000 square miles in size, is predominantly bituminous coal and is believed to be the greatest such field in the world. It is certainly the most important in the United States. West Virginia's coal fields are centermost within this area and are divided into northern and southern divisions. The Pocahontas-Flat Top field was the third of six to be opened for mining in the southern division.

Bituminous coal is the most important and plentiful variety of coal in the United States. Its uses are many and critical to a society with advancing technologies. Historically, it provided the power for steam engines in railroads, steamships and factories. Later it was the energy source for steam-generated electricity that the coke used in making steel and also for coke by-products such as gas, light oils and chemicals. Bituminous coal has long been used to heat dwellings and is a major element in the production of aluminum, cement, food, paper and textiles. Overall, it was the energy source that fueled industrialism in the 19th and 20th centuries in the United States. Its use continues in the production of electrical power, coke for smelting and a wide variety of industrial chemicals drawn from coal tars, light oils, ammonia and coal gas.

The Pocahontas-Flat Top field's bituminous soft coal is exceptional within its type. It has a relatively high percentage of carbon, and exceeds anthracite in heat production. It burns easily and with little smoke, a characteristic that made it famous. Its low ash and sulphur content make it excellent for coking, and the resulting coke's high carbon content made it particularly valuable for steel making. Like other West Virginia coal, it was easily mined from horizontal beds accessible by drift shafts employing room and pillar support systems. Coal was abundant in the Pocahontas-Flat Top field. Its number 3 bed was renowned for its 13-foot seam, and the field itself was estimated to average 9,012 tons per acre in 1895, for a total estimated quantity within the field of 1,845,857,600 tons. Between 1883 and 1896, the field shipped 26,042,687 tons of coal and coke.

Coke from the Pocahontas Number 3 seam won a Medal for Specific Merit at the World Columbian Exhibition at Chicago in 1893, being judged ". . . coke of excellent quality for blast furnace purposes." Pocahontas-Flat Top coal was also highly regarded as a fuel for the production of steam. In 1893-96, the United States Navy ordered its exclusive use in tests of new cruisers built for the fleet at east coast shipyards. In 1895, the quartermaster general of the army judged the coal to be ". . . superior to any other coal tested by this office since 1880." The fuel's renown spread beyond the United States. A Newcastle-on-Tyne laboratory test showed it to be ". . . equal to the best Welsh steam coal", and the British Cunard and White Star Steamship Company used it exclusively on their homebound voyages from this country. An undersecretary to the British Embassy in Washington

Main Street, 1910-1920
Courtesy of Frank Sexton and Louise Stoker, Bramwell, West Virginia.

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worried that Pocahontas coal might easily supplant local coal in England if there were parity in shipping costs to and from English ports.

Bramwell's role in the production and distribution was critical in several regards. It was not home to all the original lessees of coal lands from the Bluestone Coal Company (later, the Flat Top Coal Land Association). Indeed, of the early pioneers, only C.H. Duhring, I.A. Welch and J.H. Bramwell lived there. None of these men were prime movers in the work of opening mines, but all were financially interested in the projects. The original lease holders, and those who both profited and produced most in the Flat Top field, were men who lived near their mines, sometimes only transiently. John Cooper (Mill Creek and Coaldale Coal and Coke Co.) lived in Coopers; John Freeman and Jenkin Jones (Caswell Creek Coal and Coke Co.) lived in Freeman. However, J.P. Bowen (Booth-Bowen Coal and Coke Co.) lived in Wheeling, West Virginia, and Robert Goodwill never relocated from Shamokin, Pennsylvania.

Bramwell was largely inhabited by the sons of these men, many of whom were college educated and had never experienced hard times. The town became the home to these second generation coal field operators, well-to-do men who "managed" rather than "operated." Some sons followed the 19th century tradition of starting in their fathers' businesses "at the bottom." Harry Bowen worked in the Pennsylvania mines his father superintended, but Edward Cooper seems to have capitalized an insurance company directly out of college. Philip Goodwill entered the mining business in charge of his father's Pennsylvania coal interest. Charles Freeman is believed to have had some "practical training" in mining before he became a director of the Pocahontas Fuel Co., into which his father's Caswell Creek Coal and Coke Company had been merged. No information has been found to date about the lives of Jenkin Jones's two sons, James and Edward, who apparently never lived in Bramwell.

Most importantly, however, Bramwell was home to the institutions through which the mines were run. Capital for development and expansion came from the Bank of Bramwell and that institution also handled supply payments and payrolls for many of the companies. Capitalized with $50,000 in 1889, its capital stood at $256,623 by 1897. In 1906, it listed capital at $200,000, surplus at $300,000 and profits at $200,000. Clearly, much business had been done.

Bramwell also held the operating office of the Flat Top Land Association, agency of the E.W. Clark banking firm of Philadelphia. Owner of most of the land in the Pocahontas-Flat Top field, the Land Association and its leases were the foundation of all activity and wealth in the entire field. In 1896, representatives of twenty-five coal and coke companies in the Pocahontas-Flat Top field came to Bramwell to negotiate terms and acreage for their operations.

Finally, there was the Masonic Hall. Of the men engaged in operating the 21 mine companies in the Pocahontas-Flat Top field in 1896, 17 were Masons, bonded by the shared interests of that society.

Bramwell's significance is not due to its having been the home of these "millionaires," nor is it due to its architecture, which, although impressive, is neither outstanding nor unique. Bramwell is noteworthy because it was a center for the management and operation of an

Main Street, about 1940.
Courtesy of Louise Stoker, Bramwell, West Virginia.

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extractive industry that affected a large number of United States citizens (Pocahontas Coal was sold as far west as Nebraska) and significantly impacted the central Appalachian environment. It is noteworthy because, as a center for such industry, many of its inhabitants and neighbors were the men who were responsible for the extraction of Pocahontas-Flat Top coal and who financed, networked and strategized their business affairs in this town.

CRITERION 2 - EXCEPTIONAL VALUE TO ILLUSTRATE NATIONALLY IMPORTANT CULTURAL THEMES

The resources in Bramwell are associated with the following themes, outlined in *History and Prehistory in the National Park System and the National Historic Landmarks Program*, 1987:

XII. Business
- A. Extractive or Mining Industries
  - 3. Other Metals and Minerals
- E. Finance and Banking
  - 1. Commercial Banks
  - 9. General Finance
- K. Business Organization

XVI. Architecture
- K. Queen Anne-Eastlake (1880-1900)
- M. Period Revivals (1870-1940)
  - 3. Tudor (1890-1940)
- N. Commercial (1890-1215)
- Q. Bungalow (1890-1940)
- R. Craftsman (1890-1915)
- X. Vernacular Architecture

XVII. Landscape Architecture

XVIII. Technology (Engineering and Invention)
- F. Extraction and Conversion of Industrial Raw Materials

XXX. American Ways of Life
- F. Industrial Wealth of the Last Half of the 19th Century

Inclusion within Theme XII, Business (Subtheme K, Business Organization) is appropriate for Bramwell as a residential enclave for the operators and managers of mines in the Pocahontas-Flat Top coal field. The roles of Bramwell's residents are strongly represented by their dwellings, and by the largely single-class town itself. The town's physical resources testify to social structure in the early 20th century, and also to the vertical structure of management practiced in the coal fields and in many other businesses at the time. The community does not, however, clearly and importantly represent this theme at a nationally significant level.

Bramwell does not meet the criteria of national significance in architecture. Many American communities equal and surpass Bramwell in quality and variety of architectural styles represented and in the grandeur of such architecture.

Bramwell's association with developing technology was indirect and cannot be judged as significant to that theme. Of all the engineers who must have worked in the Pocahontas-Flat Top field, only Captain I.A. Welch lived in Bramwell, so far as is known. Welch, an early investigator of the field, appears to have been more involved in the business of mining than in its practice.

Bramwell does represent Theme XXX, American Ways of Life, but the outstanding quality of that representation is arguable. Bramwell does not stand out as the premier expression of industrial wealth, it is not comparable to historic Newport, Rhode Island, for example. It is noteworthy as an enclave of well-rewarded business operators and financiers, down the ladder some from J.P. Morgan, E.W. Clark, or William Bullitt. Bramwell has interest as a town devoted to people who "made things happen," and it testifies to the rewards of such work in a free enterprise system.

CRITERION 3 - OFFERS SUPERLATIVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC USE AND ENJOYMENT

Although Bramwell is readily accessible to automobile travelers, and will become more so with the completion of major highway connections and improvements now being planned for southern West Virginia (Shawnee Parkway, US 52, King Coal Highway and the Coalfield Expressway), its ownership patterns render its public use and interpretation difficult.

All but one resource in the study area are privately owned and privately used, mostly as homes or churches. Federal ownership is permitted by the authorizing legislation with owner consent, by purchase, by gift or by exchange. Although some willing sellers doubtless exist in Bramwell, most buildings are owned and cared for with pride as homes. It would be difficult to disrupt this quiet community with occasional public ownership, and the consequences of public use such as the presence of strangers with their natural curiosity and their parked cars might prove distressing for many residents. Then, too, visitors to the town could hardly experience more than viewing houses, lawns and gardens, perhaps with some discomfort as "intruders."

Quality public use and interpretation would depend upon acquisition of resources critical to the town's theme: at least one home (most are privately owned), the Bank of Bramwell (now a home), the Pocahontas Land Office (now a bed and breakfast), and the Masonic Hall (still occupied by the Masons). Similar to the approach taken by some non-NPS entities, the Norfolk and Western Railroad Station could be reconstructed by the local community. Some commercial properties might, ultimately, be available for government acquisition (the theater, for example), but the closing of any business activity in these buildings would have important impacts on townspeople.

For all of these reasons, active on-site public management, protection and use in Bramwell seems inappropriate, unless the community itself, in defining its long range goals, comes to desire that result.

Public use and interpretation could occur at new facilities outside the town. Such a solution, in which visitors are distant from the resources of interest, does not provide a quality experience, and would need to be coupled with town tours. These, too, if popular, particularly during summer months, might prove disruptive to residents.

In summary, Bramwell does not provide good opportunities for public use and interpretation without extraordinary supplemental development which, in itself, might be undesirable to the town's residents.

CRITERION 4 - INTEGRITY

While Bramwell retains its historic street pattern and overall character, many of its original and important buildings have been lost. Among these, the most important are the Norfolk and Western Railroad Station, representing a major financial and operational power in the Pocahontas coal field, as well as a major profit factor for Bramwell's operator residents; and the Bluestone Inn, a sprawling hotel where most who had business in the field stayed - suppliers, lawyers, landowners, bankers, railroad officials, wholesalers - all the myriad professions that clustered around and were a part of the production of Pocahontas coal. The Bluestone Inn burned in the town fire of 1910, along with the town's original commercial district.

Some important houses have also vanished, the most significant of which are those of J.A. Welch and C.H. Duhring, both of whom had early and long associations with the development of the Pocahontas-Flat Top coal field, and both of whom seem to have had maintained association with those interests outside West Virginia who actually controlled the field.

Some dwellings in Bramwell were "mansionized" by their second generation operator owners, thereby changing structural appearance to an astonishing degree. A comparison of historic photographs reveals this, as well as the gradual disappearance of the customary 19th century assemblage of outbuildings associated with single-family homes in urban settings.

In general, then, Bramwell has lost several important structures, and changed significantly from its pre-fire (1910) appearance. Today's community represents the period from ca. 1912 to date with some integrity. In terms of relative significance, it would appear from the perspective and research level of this study that the most important period in Bramwell's history was that from the 1870s to 1910, during which the Pocahontas field was discovered and opened. It was this period that is associated with the early entrepreneurial management and financing styles that are well represented by some of Bramwell's resources. The later period (1910-1930) was also a time of interest in such areas as labor relations, technological advancement, world trade, financial depression and overproduction, and a case can be made that Bramwell's resources possess excellent integrity relating to this period. Additional research might verify this judgment.

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SUITABILITY

To be considered suitable for inclusion in the National Park Service, a cultural resource must represent a theme not already adequately represented in the system or protected and made available by another land managing agency for public enjoyment and the benefit of future generations.

Within the Theme XII, Business (Subtheme A, Extractive or Mining Industries, Facet 3, Other Metals and Minerals), only Kay Moor in New River Gorge National River relates to the bituminous coal industry. Kay Moor's resources represent miners and only incidentally address management or finance. No national park lands are present in other bituminous coal regions of the country under this theme.

Some aspects of bituminous coal mining and culture are being studied and developments planned by the National Park Service and others in a nine-county area in western Pennsylvania. Johnstown Flood National Historic Site and Allegheny Portage National Historic Site are indirectly associated with coal mining heritage themes in that area.

In the Theme XVI, Architecture (Subtheme X, Vernacular Architecture), the National Park Service has McLaughlin National Historic Site (OR). Subtheme K, Queen Anne-Eastlake, has both Edison National Historic Site (NJ) and Sagamore Hill National Historic Site (NY).

Several parks fall under the Theme XVII, Landscape Architecture, including: Frederick Law Olmstead NHS (MA), Green Springs Historic District (VA) and National Capital Parks (DC and MD).

The National Historic Landmark program has listings in the Themes as follows:

XII. Business
- A. Extractive or Mining Industries
  - 3. Other Metals and Minerals
    - Bingham Canyon Open Pit Copper Mine, UT
    - James C. Flood Mansion, CA
    - Jerome Historic District, AZ
    - Kennecott Mine, AK
    - Andrew Mellon Building, DC
    - New Almaden, CA
    - Phelps Dodge General Office Building, AZ
    - William C. Ralston House, CA
    - Reed Gold Mine Site, NC
- E. Finance and Banking
  - 1. Commercial Banks
    - Bank of Italy Building, CA
    - Jay Cooke Home, OH
    - Carter Glass House, VA
    - J. Pierpont Morgan Library, NY
    - National City Bank Building, NY
    - William C. Ralston House, CA
    - Maggie L. Walker House, VA

9. General Finance
Metropolitan Life Insurance Company Building, NY

K. Business Organization
J.C. Penney Historic District, WY
A.T. Stewart Company Store, NY
Tredegar Iron Works, VA

XVI. Architecture
K. Queen Anne-Eastlake (1880-1900)
Arts & Industries Building, DC
Merion Cricket Club, PA
Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, PA
Sheppard and Enoch Pratt Hospital, MD
Mark Twain Home, CT
M. Period Revivals (1870-1940)
3. Tudor (1890-1940)
Boat House Row, PA
Lawrenceville School, NJ
N. Commercial (1880-1915)
Bradbury Building, CA
Leiter II Building, IL
Marquette Building, IL
Reliance Building, IL
Rookery Building, IL
South Dearborn Street Printing House Row Historic District, IL
Woolworth Building, NY
Q. Bungalow (1890-1940)
R. Craftsman (1880-1915)
Asilomar Conference Grounds, CA
First Church of Christ, Scientist, CA
Fonthill, Mercer Museum, Moravian Pottery and Tile Works, PA
David B. Gamble House, CA
Hotel Del Coronado, CA
Lake Mohonk Mountain House, NY
Roycroft Campus, NY
Timberline Lodge, OR
X. Vernacular Architecture
Bellevue Avenue Historic District, RI
Bishop Hill Colony Historic District, IL
Chappelle Administration Building, SC
El Santuario de Chimayo, NM
Guajome Ranch House, CA
Hancock Shaker Village, MA
Harrisville Historic District, NH
Jacksonville Historic District, OR
Jerome Historic District, AZ
Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop, LA
Leadville Historic District, CO

Lucy, the Margate Elephant, NJ
Mount Lebanon Shaker Society, NY
Natchitoches Historic District, LA
Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village, ME
Salem Tavern, NC
Shakertown at Pleasant Hill, KY
Silverton Historic District, CO
Single Brother's House, NC
Telluride, CO
Temple Square, UT
Virginia City Historic District, MT
Virginia City Historic District, NV
Wyckoff House, NY
Yucca Plantation, LA

XVII. Landscape Architecture
Boston Common, MA
Boston Public Garden, MA
Central Park, NY
Lawrenceville School, NJ
Middleton Place, SC
Missouri Botanical Garden, MO
Frederick Law Olmstead House, MA
Riverside Historic District, IL

XVIII. Technology (Engineering and Invention)
F. Extraction and Conversion of Industrial Raw Materials
Edward G. Acheson House, PA
E. W. Marland Mansion, OK
Sloss Blast Furnaces, AL

XXX. American Ways of Life
F. Industrial Wealth of the Last Half of 19th Century
Biltmore Estate, NC
James C. Flood Mansion, CA
Jekyll Island Historic District, GA
Ocean Drive Historic District, RI

Among the Landmark Sites, there appears to be only one site to which Bramwell's resources might be redundant: Mark Twain's Home in Connecticut. There may be resources similar to Bramwell's among the listings under Theme XVI.X, Vernacular Architecture and Theme XVII, Landscape Architecture. There may be resources with significance similar to Bramwell's in Theme XII, (Subtheme E, Finance and Banking, Facet 1, Commercial Banks) or Theme XII, Business (Subtheme K, Business Organization).

Sites relating to Theme XII, Business (Subtheme A, Extractive or Mining Industries) exist in several states under a variety of jurisdictions. Only those institutions that identify coal mining as their area of emphasis have been listed. Only publicly owned or non-profit institutions open to the public with recreational and interpretive programs are included.

Agencies that maintain and protect collections of coal mine-related materials have been included, as well as those that manage and protect land. Resources are presented in geographic order by name of institution, followed by the subject of its interest and its management body. Non-profit organizations are indicated by NPO.

Colorado

Golden, Colorado School of Mines Museum (general mining), state.
Lafayette, Lafayette Miner's Museum (coal mining), non-profit organization (NPO).

Illinois

Chicago, Museum of Science and Industry (coal mine exhibit), NPO.
Normal, Illinois State University Museum (mining exhibit), state.

Kentucky

Sterns, Blue Heron, (reconstructed coal town), state.

Pennsylvania

Ashland, Museum of Anthracite Mining (mining museum), state.
Clearfield, Clearfield County Historical Society (mine mouth exhibit), private society.
Eckley, Eckley Miners Village (anthracite coal patch town), state.
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania History and Museum Commission (mining collection), state.
Hazelton, Greater Hazelton Historical Society (industry, mining collection), NPO.
Scottsdale, Westmoreland Fayette Historical Society (1850 rural industrial village, coal and coke manufacture collections), private society.
Scranton, Lackawanna Historical Society (development of mining collection, anthracite coal mining), NPO.
Scranton, Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum (mining tools, machinery collections), state.
Wilkes-Barre, Wyoming Historical and Geological Society (collection anthracite coal mining), NPO.

In addition, there are exhibition bituminous coal mines in Beckley, West Virginia, and in Pocahontas, Virginia.

Other coal mine communities in southern West Virginia may also portray the themes represented by Bramwell. Among those resources which might be contrasted are Madison which has a commercial district and middle-class residential area; Huntington, where a railroad depot survives as well as schools, civic buildings and residences; Fayetteville, which has residential and commercial districts intact; Glen Jean, where a bank building stands; Kimball, where a group of large management houses exist; Logan, where commercial and management level residences survive, and Williamson, where there is an excellent commercial district and active railroad yard.

FEASIBILITY

Feasibility for inclusion in the National Park Service includes evaluation of such criteria as adequacy of size and configuration to insure long-term protection and to accommodate public use, manageability, landownership patterns, acquisition costs, accessibility, threats to the resources, and staff/development requirements.

For some of these criteria, sufficient information was not available to reach sustainable conclusions in this reconnaissance study. Until other questions are resolved, acquisition and development costs would, for example, be nearly impossible to estimate with any degree of accuracy. Similarly, staffing requirements cannot be considered without a plan for development and operation.

There are, however, a number of issues that are clearly identifiable and that impact the feasibility of Bramwell as a unit of the National Park Service. Most have been discussed earlier, but will be summarized here.

All resources in the study area are privately owned and, more importantly, privately used, mostly as homes. Federal ownership is restricted to purchase, gift or exchange only with the consent of the owner. Some commercial properties might ultimately be available for government acquisition (the theater, for example), but active on-site management, protection or public use for the entire town seems out of the question. A series of cooperative agreements particular to specific properties could be employed (as with Boston NHP) to define federal involvement in each case. Whether or not this would be a practical approach depends on the community's definition of its own goals.

Boundaries of the historic district and the town do not encompass all important resources. The boundaries of the proposed expanded national historic landmark district will include other important resources in nearby Simmons, Coopers and Freeman to make a more complete cultural unit. These communities are small enough to provide for compact management. Neither municipal boundaries nor national register district status have protected the town from development by way of contemporary improvements (see the following discussions about highway and water supply). Vigorous management would be necessary to avoid a repetition of these developments that impact the town's historic integrity.

There are no mineral interests in Bramwell because no minerals of value have been found beneath the town. Historical evidence to this fact exists in the siting of the town by interests whose goal was to lease coal lands, and they would not have sold coal land for housing. Grazing and timber rights are not issues in the community. Mine subsidence is not an issue.

Water has become an increasingly valuable commodity in Bramwell. Supply is not scarce, but treatment and distribution systems are aged and maintenance costs increase yearly. At the same time, income from user fees has dropped $4,000 between the years 1987 and 1989 due to a steadily diminishing user base. The town has been in default on its water bonds, making it difficult to refinance in order to secure additional funds to meet increasing costs. In an effort to restore credit and regain solvency, the town council has gone on record as being willing to raise water rates to any level necessary. A new water treatment plant is to be built in 1992. Its location on the Bluestone River is near the commercial area in the historic district (see map on p. 7).

As has been noted, the Bluestone River has flooded Bramwell in the past, causing some damage to personal property but not significant damage to buildings. The river is contained within a deep channel through the town. This together with programs of the Bureau of Mines to restore nearby watersheds, serves to diminish flood threats to the community. The Corps of Engineers has no flood control measures in place for Bramwell.

Over the years, there have been many plans for upgrading Highway 52 access into Bramwell, including widening the road to four lanes and realigning some sections. One section contains the Bramwell turn-off. This road, descending the grade from Pinnacle Rock, has a series of shallow S-curves that terminate at the Bluestone Bridge and the Norfolk & Southern Railway crossing just outside Bramwell. Accidents, particularly those involving heavy vehicles, prompted the construction of an escape ramp in the early 1970s. The state began highway redesign studies in the 1980s and presented a plan for upgrading to the community in June 1990. Over complaints by townspeople and the town council, the state selected a design that straightens the road and reduces the downhill grade by elevated bridging of both the river and the railroad crossings. The design involves left turns across traffic for both Bramwell north exits. The new alignment also cuts through the settlement/suburb of Rameytown and required the demolition of nine houses, some of which were over 50 years old. Construction began in August 1991.

Meanwhile, a number of groups are discussing major highway access to Mercer and McDowell counties and the general area of southern West Virginia. Schemes favor a variety of alignments for a limited access, four-lane highway. One of these would follow the route of U.S. Highway 52. The state's congressional delegation is active in securing appropriations for this project.

Roadside dumping has been a long-term problem for West Virginia, and the opening of county landfill sites has not materially solved the problem. Within five miles of Bramwell a ten-mile stretch of U.S. Highway 52, abandoned since the 1930s, has long been illegally used as a dumping area and now represents a significant threat for unsanitary and hazardous waste. Mercer County's landfill is adequate in size for current needs, but increasing federal requirements for operation and facility upgrading have driven costs of using the landfill from $7.75 to $30.00 per ton. Free dump days have not yet stopped illegal roadside dumping, nor has the state department of natural resources produced an action plan for illegal dump cleanup. Meanwhile, there is some thought that more conveniently located dump sub-stations might help, and citizen groups are active to encourage local restoration of dump areas.

To summarize: Bramwell is a national register resource for which there are a number of avenues available to insure its protection and help its economic development. Although there are threats to the community, such as loss of privacy, residents may not be opposed to the change, however, from a national perspective, administration and management may not be feasible due to accessibility configuration of resources and the extent of private ownership. Adding the community to the National Park Service is not the best avenue to achieve the community's goals of preservation and economic revitalization. Federal management may seem desirable in that some of the community's needs could potentially be addressed quickly, but the cost of such involvement is likely to include loss of the privacy, self-determination, and quality of life that many residents cherish. Bramwell is thus not feasible as an addition to the National Park Service.

OPTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY AND PROTECTION

There are many concepts and configurations by which Bramwell and the region could achieve the goals of economic revitalization through tourism without sacrificing protection of resources or jeopardizing the quality of life that characterizes the region's charm and history.

A number of initiatives are already underway, such as National Park Service participation and leadership in conservation and heritage tourism planning in southern West Virginia, activities of Coal County, Inc. and the National Trust for Historic Preservation Heritage Tourism Demonstration Project. There are also many state initiatives which address economic redevelopment through tourism. Many of these propose appropriate roles for Bramwell – ones which would not severely disrupt the community's life.

Bramwell is also a part of the regional tourist development program outlined in Howard G. Atkins's and Mack H. Gillenwater's 1989 study, "The Coal Road, A Survey of Southern West Virginia Mining Tourism Potential." In that plan, Bramwell would be one stop along a motor tour route linking a number of coal towns and sites. Walking tours would be continued, more overnight accommodations would be sought, a railroad tour to Matoak would be started, and the Cooper's Country Store would be used as a gift shop, restaurant, local archives or depot. Again, regional leadership would be needed, as well as financing to pay for development. Bramwell's financial participation in this effort would depend largely on the attraction of business investment, and this could be accomplished by the community.

The introduction of HR 4978 in 1990, which was reintroduced as HR 692 in 1991, has directed that this study consider Bramwell as a "stand alone" unit of the national park system. In this configuration, alternative development strategies are more difficult.

Bramwell already hosts many tourists who are drawn by the town's pleasant aspect and bucolic qualities. Information and a self-guiding tour leaflet for the town are available at the old Pocahontas Land Office, now the new Bluestone Inn. Volunteer tour guides are available and the community stages special events (street fairs, house tours, etc.) as well as scholarly conferences on regional history. This pattern is entirely appropriate and comfortable for the community because the number of visitors is small, and special events occur only occasionally. It could easily be enhanced (or, if desired, expanded) and paired with an initiative to increase small tourist-based business activities such as gift shops and cafes. Because interpretation is a volunteer effort at this time, and there is no impetus for business development beyond the mayor and city council, some sort of incentive for the achievement of an enhanced program would need to be provided. Grants and federal aid could be employed to provide money for such work, but the long-term goal should be to have town-managed and -designed activities that are self-sustaining from tourist-generated income.

Another alternative would be to develop Bramwell into a theater center through the restoration of its old theater. Coalfield interpretive programs could be shown there during the tourist season and the local theater group might use the facility on a regular basis during the entire year. Occasionally, professional productions could be planned and theatrical events of local origin, such as play parties and concerts, could add interest. Entrepreneurs would be encouraged to open specialty stores and quality restaurants in the

commercial area to provide a complete dinner-theater experience. In this configuration, house tours and special events could be continued in their present format. Again, focus management and initial capital would need to be provided.

More important than such plans at the moment is the protection of Bramwell's resources and determination of the community's own goals. These two needs are interdependent, but in this instance community identification of goals should come first. For long-range success, the people of Bramwell need to consider a variety of possible futures for their town and reach some consensus regarding one. This process may be long and difficult but it is essential. The effort could be a part of an NPS special resources study, or it could be done as a stand-alone activity, without reference to planning or development.

Goal setting must be accompanied or followed by the designation of a leadership group or individual. There must be some focus mechanism and responsibility for getting things done.

The advisory committee proposed by HR 4478 and 692 (Bramwell NHP Bill) might be one approach. Other communities have used their landmark commissions for this purpose, while others have organized private foundations headed by a paid director. Some have employed a combination of these methods. A workshop to explore leadership designs should follow the community's goal setting activity.

Bramwell could then begin to plan and work for its future. Integral to such planning would be a community-wide plan, which should include a preservation plan coupled with appropriate land use planning. This effort is critical to the preservation of the community.

At the same time, the community should execute thorough research on all of its physical resources, including title searches and comprehensive histories, including architectural and landscape analysis of each property in the community. The product would be a series of city-wide historic resource/structures reports to provide information for both preservation and interpretation. Simultaneously, a special study should be completed to fully document the opening and subsequent development of the Pocahontas-Flat Top Coalfield.

There are many sources for economic and planning assistance in all of this work. The town, which does have a historic landmark commission, should apply for Certified Local Government (CLG) status in order to qualify for historic preservation planning funds administered by the National Park Service. The National Trust for Historic Preservation works with communities to redevelop commercial areas through their National Main Street Center, and has participated in revolving loan funds for these purposes. It should be possible for federal funds to be channeled to Bramwell through earmarked appropriations to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The Small Business Administration has loan and loan guarantee programs which can be used for facility rehabilitation as well as business start-up. Investors can also take advantage of tax benefits (20% investment tax credit). Other federal programs offer significant financial aid. Community Development Block Grants and Development Bonds offered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Urban Development Block Grants (HUD), and the Rental Rehab Program (HUD). Finally, the Community Reinvestment Act of 1978 encourages local financial institutions to reinvest in their communities. Bramwell no longer has its own bank, but Bluefield banks have long served the community.

In addition, there is one private foundation that is concerned with West Virginia (and southwestern Pennsylvania). The Benedum Foundation (Claude Worthington) has made grants for preservation, business district restoration, planning and economic development in the area.

To summarize, Bramwell and southern West Virginia have three primary needs. In priority order, these are:

1. Community agreement on long-range goals

2. Development of local leadership

3. Technical assistance in the areas of:
   a. inventory/research
   b. financial strategies
   c. planning
   d. implementation

[redacted]

102d CONGRESS
1st Session

H. R. 692

To provide for the preservation, restoration, and interpretation of the historical, cultural, and architectural values of the Town of Bramwell, West Virginia, for the educational and inspirational benefit of present and future generations.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 29, 1991

Mr. Rahall introduced the following bill, which was referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs

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A BILL

To provide for the preservation, restoration, and interpretation of the historical, cultural, and architectural values of the Town of Bramwell, West Virginia, for the educational and inspirational benefit of present and future generations.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Bramwell National Historical Park Act of 1991".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) Findings.--The Congress finds that:

(1) The coal mining heritage of southern West Virginia is of national historical and cultural significance.

(2) The Town of Bramwell, West Virginia, possesses remarkable and outstanding historical, cultural, and architectural values

relating to the coal mining heritage of southern West Virginia.

(3) It is in the national interest to preserve the unique character of the Town of Bramwell, West Virginia, and to enhance the historical, cultural, and architectural values associated with its coal mining heritage.

(b) Purpose.--The purpose of this Act is to provide for the preservation, restoration, and interpretation of the historical, cultural, and architectural values of the Town of Bramwell, West Virginia, for the educational and inspirational benefit of present and future generations.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT.

(a) In General.--In order to preserve, restore, and interpret the unique historical, cultural, and architectural values of Bramwell, West Virginia, there is hereby established the Bramwell National Historical Park (hereinafter referred to as the "Park").

(b) Area Included.--The Park shall consist of the lands and interests in lands within the corporate boundary of the Town of Bramwell.

SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) In General.--The Secretary shall administer the Park in accordance with this Act and with the provisions of law generally applicable to units of the national park system, including the Act entitled "An Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes", approved August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535; 16 U.S.C. 461-467).

(b) Donations.--Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may accept and retain donations of funds, property, or services from individuals, foundations, corporations, or public entities for the purpose of providing services and facilities which he deems consistent with the purposes of the Act.

(c) Cooperative Agreements.--In administering the Park, the Secretary is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with the State of West Virginia, or any political subdivision thereof, for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

SEC. 5. ACQUISITION OF LAND.

(a) General Authority.--The Secretary may acquire land or interests in land within the boundaries of the Park only by donation, exchange, or purchase from willing sellers with donated or appropriated funds.

(b) State Lands.--Lands or interest in lands, within the boundaries of the Park which are owned by the State of West Virginia or any political subdivision thereof, may be acquired only by donation.

SEC. 6. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.

The Secretary is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with the owners of properties of historical or cultural significance within the Park pursuant to which the Secretary may mark, interpret, restore, and provide technical assistance for the preservation and interpretation of such properties.

SEC. 7. PROPERTY OWNER RIGHTS.

Nothing in this Act may be construed as authorizing the Secretary to have access to private residential property within the Park for the purpose of conducting visitors through such property, or for any other purpose, without the advice and consent of the owner of such property.

SEC. 8. MANAGEMENT PLAN.

(a) In General.--The Secretary, in consultation with the committee referred to in section 9, shall prepare a plan for the restoration, preservation, interpretation, and development of the historical, cultural, and architectural resources of the Park.

(b) Restoration Measures.--The plan referred to in this section shall provide for such measures as may be deemed appropriate for the restoration of public areas within the Park, including but not limited to each of the following:

(1) The restoration of a brick surface to such segments of North River Street, Main Street, Rose Street, South River Street, and Bloch Street as deemed necessary to restore the historical and architectural character of the Park.

(2) Measures to mitigate the visual impact of public utility facilities such as phone and electrical lines on the historical and architectural character of the Park.

(c) Development Measures.--The plan referred to in this section shall provide for such measures as may be deemed appropriate for the development of public areas within the Park, including but not limited to each of the following:

(1) The reconstruction of the Bramwell Railroad Depot.

(2) The restoration of an edifice or edifices suitable to provide for the interpretation and visitor appreciation of the historical, cultural, and architectural features of the Park.

SEC. 9. ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) Establishment.--There is hereby established the Bramwell National Historical Park Advisory Committee (hereinafter in this Act referred to as "Advisory Committee"). The Advisory Committee shall be composed of thirteen members appointed by the Secretary to serve for terms of two years, except for the Governor of the State of West Virginia and the Mayor of the Town of Bramwell who shall serve without limitation of terms. Any member of the Advisory Committee may serve after the expiration of his term until a successor is appointed. Any member of the Advisory Committee may be appointed to serve more than one term. The Secretary or his designee shall serve as Chairman.

(b) Management and Development Issues.--The Secretary, or his designees, shall meet on a regular basis and consult with the Advisory Committee on matters relating to the development of a management plan for the Park and on the implementation of such plan.

(c) Expenses.--Members of the Advisory Committee shall serve without compensation as such, but the Secretary may pay expenses reasonably incurred in carrying out their responsibilities under this Act on vouchers signed by the Chairman.

(d) Membership.--The Secretary shall appoint members to the Advisory Committee as follows:

(1) the Governor of the State of West Virginia or his delegate;

(2) one member to represent the West Virginia Division of Culture and History to be appointed from among persons nominated by the Governor of the State of West Virginia;

(3) the Mayor of the Town of Bramwell;

(4) one member to represent the Mercer County Commission;

(5) one member to represent the Mercer County Historical Society;

(6) two members to represent the Bramwell Historic Landmark Commission;

(7) two members to represent the Bramwell Millionaire Garden

Club;

(8) one member to represent the West Virginia Preservation Alliance, Inc.;

(9) one member to represent Coalways, Inc.;

(10) one member to represent the West Virginia Association of Museums; and

(11) one member to represent the Pinnacle Rock State Park Foundation, Inc.

(e) Termination; Charter.--The Advisory Committee shall terminate on the date ten years after the enactment of this Act notwithstanding the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Act of October 6, 1972, 86 Stat. 776). The provisions of section 14(b) of such Act (relating to the charter of the Committee) are hereby waived with respect to this Advisory Committee.

SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this Act.

[redacted]

APPENDIX B: NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

NPS Form 10-900
OMB

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic: Brownell Historic District

and or common:

2. Location

street & number: [illegible] N/A not for publication

city, town: Brownell N/A vicinity of

state: West Virginia code: 54 county: Mercer code: 055

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
X district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
___ building(s)	___ private	___ unoccupied	X commercial	___ park
___ structure	X both	___ work in progress	___ educational	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	X religious
___ object	N/A in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	X yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	___ other

4. Owner of Property

name: Multiple Ownership

street & number:

city, town: Brownell N/A vicinity of state: West Virginia

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.: Mercer County Courthouse

street & number: Courthouse Road

city, town: Princeton state: West Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title: Brownell Historic Survey has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes X no

date: Summer 1982 ___ federal ___ state ___ county X local

depository for survey records: Historic Preservation Unit, Department of Culture and History

city, town: Charleston state: WV

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
X excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
___ good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Bramwell, West Virginia, is located approximately eight miles northwest of Bluefield, West Virginia, in Mercer County. The main section of Bramwell was plotted on the banks of the Bluestone River. The river turns in such a way so that it nearly surrounds the downtown section of Bramwell. Streets were laid out in a miniature grid pattern in this flat part of town when it was planned in 1885 by a coal land leasing company. Additional streets appeared in the surrounding hills across the river from the south side to the east side of the flat downtown section of town.

The "Industrial Edition" of the Bluefield Daily Telegrah, published in November 1896, describes Bramwell as "a delightful residential town at the gateway of the field". This refers to the Pocahontas Coalfield which covers parts of three counties in West Virginia and two in Virginia. The coalfield opened in 1883, and the site of Bramwell was chosen by several coal operators for their residences because of its accessibility to their nearby mining operations.

The mining towns of Coopers and Freeman were, around the turn of the century, incorporated into the town of Bramwell. This historic district as defined by this nomination includes only the main part of Bramwell as described in the first paragraph of this description. This is due to the fact that this section of Bramwell has virtually been preserved intact for the past fifty or sixty years and its structures clearly serve as a coherent unit, basically unchanged by time. In an area of the state where elaborate architectural styles are not common, Bramwell's impressive architecture sets this district apart from surrounding towns and settlements.

The Bramwell Historic District experienced two phases of building. Early Bramwell was comprised of frame buildings in the businesses and residential sections of the town, with the exception of the brick Masonic Hall (1893), the stone Bank of Bramwell (1893), the Bramwell Presbyterian Church (1902) a revival English Romanesque structure of local bluestone, and the red brick Perry House (1904). All business buildings were frame except the brick Perry building on the end of the business block on the north side of Main Street as is revealed by a photo of Bramwell taken in approximately 1906. On January 7, 1910, this situation was tragically changed. A fire broke out in a pool room and bowling alley on the south side of Main Street, devouring that building and rapidly spreading down the block and across the street. All the buildings on the north side of the business block of Main Street were completely destroyed, while on the other side of the street only two buildings were saved, the frame Bluestone Inn and a [illegible]her frame house owned by coal operator Edward Cooper, though both were heavily damaged. Soon after the blaze, the town council passed an ordinance which stated that any building constructed on Main, North River, South River, and Rose Streets were required to be of brick, stone, or some other mortar. Soon the north side business block was rebuilt following the new ruling with all new structures of brick. The Bluestone Inn (which was demolished in the 1930's) was repaired across the street, and a new Cooper house was built, but the businesses were never rebuilt on that side. The Coopers gradually bought the remaining lots and extended their homestead property.

The architecture of Bramwell truly reflects the large fortunes which the Pocahontas coal operators were able to accumulate. The styles within the district range from Queen Anne to American homestead to craftsmanstyle. The romantic Tudor Revival house built by coal operator W.H. Thomas between 1909 and 1912 reportedly had timber and tiles sent specially from England for its construction. In contrast, the Hewitt house built only two years later emphasizes native local bluestone and Indiana white oak interior paneling. The Edward Cooper house (1910), which also had its orange brick shipped from England, is of the Queen Anne style with its Ionic articulated tower and decorative copper roof, while next door the Coopers built an American craftsmanstyle brick bungalow (ca.1920) for their son and his new wife. It seems that the wealthy operators spared nothing to construct these buildings with the finest materials and craftsmanship available. Several structures exhibit elaborate carvings inside, most notably expressed on staircases. Stained and beveled glass is found in several of the homes. Decorative wrought iron fences border the majority of lots in Bramwell.

Also found with several homes is the presence of the garage with servants' quarters on the second floor. Some servants lived outside of Bramwell's main section, but many maids, butlers, and gardeners lived on the premises of the operators' home properties. This must have created an interesting interaction between different social groups and also a separate culture within the limits of the historic district. Servants in Bramwell were predominantly black Americans.

Building within the Bramwell historic district basically halted in the mid-1920's with only a few intrusions constructed since that time. The older homes and mansions have been remarkably well preserved which serves to make the Bramwell historic district an extremely attractive area today. The following are descriptions of Bramwell's most significant structures:

North side of Main Street

1. BRAMWELL TOWN HALL--ca. 1889 (Pivotal) two-story gabled rectangular frame structure, with double-hung sash windows, one of Bramwell's oldest surviving buildings. Lot No. 6.

2. PENCE BU[illegible] ca. 1911 (Contributing) three-story red brick commercial building rebuilt after [illegible] of 1910. Unornamented heavy projecting cornice tops third floor; flat roof. Lot No. 99.

3. OLD THEATRE BUILDING--ca. 1923 (Contributing) deep red brick with two stories - roof slopes downward toward rear. Second story facade is characterized by four round arches, two of which frame windows with the other two serving as openings to a porch. Lot No. 101.

4. ABRAHAMSON BUILDING--ca. 1914 (Contributing) two-story light brick commercial structure with tall windows articulating second story facade. Ornamental cornice contributes to an Italianate quality. Lot No. 102.

5. COLLINS BUILDING--ca. 1922 (Contributing) deep red brick two-story brick with a plain flat facade. Slender vertical engaged brick piers visually separate the building into four sections. The west end of the building, comprised of about ten feet, is one-story high and was added to the original building between 1922 and 1930. Second story windows have stone window lintels. Collins' name appears in stone on second story facade. Lot No. 103.

6. DUDLEY BUILDING--ca. 1926 (Contributing) light brick two-story with flat facade and second story windows with stone window heads. Lot No. 104.

7. BRYANT BUILDING--ca. 1910 (Contributing) two-story red brick with heavy projecting cornices on top of second story and between first and second story. A pharmacy was contained in the right side section of the building and some decorative cherry woodwork and marble is still inside. Stone window heads and sashes also are present on the second story facade windows. Lot No. 105.

8. MASONIC HALL--ca. 1893-94 (Pivotal) large two-story brick (now painted white) rectangular structure with rounded arched entryways. Double windows with transoms on first floor with shorter windows on second floor placed in blind arches. Tin roof, hipped. Originally built with an auditorium to seat three hundred. Lot No. 106.

9. POCAHONTAS COAL AND COKE OFFICE--ca. 1892 (Contributing) now converted to a residence, two-story building, gable roof with small gabled projection in center of the roof facing street. Pilasters framing front entry were removed from Bank of Bramwell's interior sometime after the 1930's. Rear extension added during World War II for the Red Cross. Originally the office of the coal land company which planned Bramwell, it still contains three vaults, which have been converted to storage in both areas, and the original mahogany woodwork on the first floor interior. aluminum siding. Lot No. 107.

10. McELRATH HOUSE--ca. 1898 (Contributing) two-story red brick dwelling with steep roof and cross gable, assymmetrical plan, small porch to entry topped by a pediment supported by decorative wooden posts. Brick three-sided bay next to porch. Decorative iron fence borders property. Lot No. 108.

11. COLLINS HOUSE--ca. 1903 (Contributing) modified ell-shaped two-story dwelling with tree rear gabled extensions. Front porch supported by tall slender Tuscan columns; balustrade on flat roof of porch, small tower with steep gables and diamond-shaped windows at jointure of ell, tiny balcony attached to tower; aluminum siding. Iron fence. Lot No. 109.

12. KIRK HOUSE--ca. 1892 (Contributing) unadorned two-story ell. Front porch runs along entire front of house. Iron gate opens on to sidewalk; aluminum siding. Lot 110.

13. McGUFFIN HOUSE--ca. 1888 (Constributing) two-story modified ell dwelling; porch across front with sloping roof and decorative "gingerbread" fans on posts; second story windows contain small panes of multi-colored glass; large bay at rear

of house and also at end of ell. Decorative metal finials run along the crest of the gables on the roof. Slightly remodeled many years ago, it may be Bramwell's oldest surviving dwelling. Aluminum siding; stone fence with iron gate borders front of property. Lot No. 111.

14. McNEER HOUSE--ca. 1890 (Contributing) modified two-story gabled frame dwelling with a two-story bay on front and porch with three slender posts and spindles along the porch frieze; small triangular projection on roof on front. Lot No. 112.

15. PACK HOUSE--ca. 1897 (Contributing) large three-story four square gabled dwelling with a cross gable in center resulting in bays on either side of the house. A bay also projects from the first floor on to the front porch which stretches across the entire front of the house and turns the right corner to meet the bay on the right side. A small modified Palladian window appears on the third floor in the front gable. An iron fence borders the property. Lot No. 113.

North River Street

16. PILGRIM/HOLINESS/WESLEYAN CHURCH--(Contributing) constructed between 1906 and 1930-Square one-story building with large steep gable and thin square tower. Entrance is at southwest corner; aluminum siding. Lot No. 86.

17. HOUSE--between 1906 and 1930 (Contributing) small one-story dwelling, frame. Sloping roof, filled in porch with multiple windows. Lot No. 87.

18. "KITCHEN BUILDERS"--before 1930 (Contributing) long two-story frame business building with three distinct sections. Flat facade, continuous porch across front. Lot No. 88.

19. SMALL BUILDING--before 1930 (Contributing) very small frame gabled square structure with long sash windows facing Bloch Street. Lot No. 89.1.

20. BRICK GARAGE--before 1930 (Contributing) two car, one-story garage with stepped roof. Window heads (stone) appear above windows and garage doors. Lot No. 90.

21. GARAGE--before 1930 (Contributing) two-story frame garage for four vehicles. Second story may have been servants' quarters. Lot No. 96.

22. HOUSE AND GARAGE--before 1930 (Contributing) small frame one-story gabled house and one car garage. Lot No. 97.

23. COOPER BUNGALOW--ca. 1920 (Contributing) craftsmanstyle one-story brick dwelling; stone foundation; exposed rafter ends, low roof and broad porch across front of house; shingles in front gable. Lot Nos. 115 and 116.

26. COOPER HOUSE--1910 (Pivotal) asymmetrical Queen Anne dwelling with a copper roof, stone foundation, and orange brick which was specially sent from England for the construction of this house. Two large bays on either side of this three-story structure are topped by a conical tower turret and a gable. The third floor section of the turret is articulated by paired pilasters between the windows. A hipped dormer appears between the tower and the gable and below it on the second floor a Palladian window is centered between the bays. A massive front porch encircles the bays on the first floor. A classical influence is present in the monumental entryway to the front porch which is crowned by a heavy entablature and a low pediment. Dentils decorate all of the exterior moldings. A small Palladian porch and accompanying window is found on the third floor on the west side of the house, and several dormers also project from the west side of the house, and several dormers also project from the roof on the third floor. Stained glass is present in some of the smaller windows, and at the second floor landing of the ornately carved oak gratings are found at the top of several of the interior doorways and also leading to one of the bays. The large front door has sidelights with beveled glass tracery and transoms with the same. Lot No. 117.

25. COOPER SWIMMING POOL--1910 (Pivotal) rectangular one-story structure enclosing a swimming pool and dressing rooms. Has same English orange brick as main house; gabled dormers; each windows. Lot No. 117 (sub-lot 17).

24. COOPER GARAGE APARTMENT--1910 (Pivotal) originally servants' quarters on second floor, garage on first floor. rectangular gabled structure with English orange brick facade, red brick on sides and rear; cinderblock room projecting from first floor on west side added later. A double gabled dormer projects from roof--initials EC (Edward Cooper) above one window and date 1910 above the other window; brackets support eaves. Lot No. 117.

23. BANK OF BRAMWELL--ca. 1891 (Pivotal) rectangular two-story stone gabled structure with round arched doorway and transoms on front first floor windows. Gable serves as a pediment with a lunette window; brackets support the entablature. Inside the front room is carved oak paneling, pilasters, and a classical frieze that were installed in 1901. The floor has decorative patterns of white Italian marble and colored marble tiles, also installed in 1901. The former board of directors' room at the rear of the building is wainscotted in mahogany and has small carvings of gargoyle faces and animals heads at points around the doorways. The name of the bank's first cashier and most influential president, Isaac T. Mann, is still present in brass letters on one of the doors to his former office, adjacent to the directors' room. The bank vault is also intact in the front room. Lot No. 124.

28. PERRY HOUSE--ca. 1901-04 (Pivotal) three-story red brick square dwelling with large cross gables. Porch stretches across entire front of house with an open gabled entryway in center, double doorway. Revival Tudor decoration in large gables with tripled window in each. An oak staircase with a large windowseat on a landing leads from the first to the finished third floor. Lot No. 125.

29. HICKMAN HOUSE, two down from Bank, next to Perry House — before 1930 - (Contributing) greatly enlarged after 1930, this frame dwelling has been remodeled to appear Italianate with a cupola, symmetrical plan, small central porch, wide eaves, and a low-pitched hip roof. Lot No. 126.

30. GARAGE (Contributing) one and a half-story two-car frame gabled garage. Lot 126 (sub-lot 28).

31. MEYERS HOUSE--ca. 1892 (Contributing) long, narrow two-story dwelling crossed by two gables, one a clipped gable, porches symmetrically placed either side; aluminum siding. Lot No. 127.

South River Street

32. HEWITT HOUSE-- 1914-1915 (Pivotal) architectural firm, DeArmond, Ashmead & Bickley, 618 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia- two-story dwelling which reflects the transitional period in American architecture of the Prairie style with its symmetrical plan, native bluestone, large comparatively low-hipped tile roof of "dark matt green shade", wide projecting eaves, and low ceilings. Plan of house is a wide "T" shape. Wide porches with stone posts and English quarry tile floors flank either side of the central gabled projecting pavillion which serves as the entryway and focal point. The front door is framed by two columns which support partial entablatures and a small projecting arched roof. A secondary gable with a casement window appears to the right of the pavillion on the second floor and a triple casement window next to that. Inside all floors are of Indiana white oak with a two-line border of cherry. Living room has a large stone fireplace and wainscots, cornices, mantles, ceiling beams and trim bookcases all of white oak. A "glazed operating metal skylight" is present over the staircase in the foyer. Lot No. 128.

33. HEWITT GARAGE APARTMENT--1914-1915 (Pivotal) native bluestone gabled two-story garage and three-room servants' quarters above. Garage contains an earlier car wash. Lot .28 (sub-lot 42).

34. MANN HOUSE (Pivotal) remodeled from an earlier structure in 1909 - Large, yet long and narrow, three-story gabled dwelling. A pentagonal turret topped by a metal finial is attached to the third floor on one corner of the house, and bays result underneath on the first and second floors. A rounded porch encircles this corner and leads to the front entry. The flat roof of the porch is trimmed by an entablature supported by tall, slender, rounded columns. The recessed rear section was used as servants' quarters, and the third floor of the house was considered a children's area as it was scaled smaller in proportions (miniature doors, closets, and coat racks are found there). A glass conservatory is attached to the first floor adjacent to the dining room. The den in the first floor bay has walls covered in leather. Lot No. 129.

35. FORMER PRESBYTERIAN MANSE--ca. 1892 (Contributing) narrow gabled two-story dwelling, porch encircles right corner of first floor. Shingles, aluminum siding, and metal railing have been added. Lot No. 130

36. COLLINS HOUSE--ca. 1909-10 (Contributing) narrow two and a half-story frame dwelling with two gables with catslide or saltbox sloped roofs. One gable tops the third floor and the other protrudes to the right of it from the second floor. The second story gable is pierced by a double window, a semicircular lunette, and a triangular lunette. Groups of three tall stained glass windows are found on the front and two sides of the house. Enclosed porch at front left corner with overhanging roof on left side; stone foundation; diamond shaped slate tile roof; large stone chimney; some stick decoration on rear extension of house. Lot No. 131.

37. COLLINS GARAGE--1909-10 (Contributing) two-story brick garage with servants' quarters above; catslide, diamond shaped tiled roof to match main house, stone window heads. Lot No. 131.

38. INTRUSION--ca. 1955 - brick ranch style one-story oil dwelling. Lot 133.

Block Street

39. BRAMWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - 1902 (Pivotal) native bluestone Revival English gothic-style structure with square tower and miniature buttresses projecting between arched windows and at corners of tower. Three sides of the tower have three arched openings each near the top. The center front of the tower has a large window with tracery. A bracketed, gabled overdoor protects the front entry. The main church building is said to have been modeled after a small Welsh cathedral. Circa 1962 an education building was added to the main structure creating an ell shape. This is also of bluestone; it is two stories with dormers and sash windows, a gable and an arched window to match the main building. Lot No. 119.

Pocahontas Avenue

40. GOODWILL HOUSE - built ca. 1894, remodeled 1905 (Pivotal) architect for remodeling: G.J. Smith of Bramwell - Originally an unadorned two-story frame structure, this house was embellished in 1905 by the addition of a third story ballroom and guest rooms, a finial topped dormital turret, and bays on the first and second floors, a long encircling front porch, and cut glass windows. Carved oak screens and Ionic columns were also added in the foyer and to separate a sitting room from the master bedroom on the second floor. Dining room on first floor has heavy oak ceiling beams and also oak sliding doors which are pulled from the walls flanking the doorway. House is gabled with a steep sloping roof; smaller gables with two-story bays extend from middle of the sides of the house. In the small gable of the right side a round window with spider web tracery appears. Gables have been shingled in recent years. Evidence of the addition of the third floor seen in the presence of a skylight in the second floor ceiling now covered by the third floor. There are Masonic symbols painted directly on the wall in the first floor den and in a third filor game room. Lot No. 7.

41. GOODWILL GARAGE--ca. 1895 (Contributing) originally a one-story outbuilding for servants' quarters, now a garage and car port; frame. Lot No. 7.

42. THOMAS HOUSE--ca. 1909-12 (Pivotal) Tudor Revival eighteen-room three-story dwelling; red tile roof; wood for "half-timbering," and interior paneling reportedly transported from England; stonework executed by Italian masons brought from Europe for the project; casement windows with multiple panes; several prominent gables-most notably on the front --two projecting gabled pavillions, one completely of stone; front porch on first floor between pavillions has tile designs on floor; several chimneys. A central staircase leading from the first floor to the second, parts at a landing into two different stairs. At the landing is a colossal stained glass window divided into six sections by massive wooden partitions. The glass pictures six different symbols, five in roundels and the central one in a rectangle. The ceilings of the living room and adjacent den are ornately sculpted in plaster. A ballroom, now partitioned into several rooms, is on the third floor and has a barrel vault in the ceiling. A long dormer with five small windows projects from the center of the roof on the third floor. Lot No. 8.

43. THOMAS SHED--ca. 1909-12 (Contributing) small one-story clipped gable frame structure with stone foundation and porch. Lot No. 8.

44. THOMAS SERVANTS' QUARTERS- 1909-12 (Contributing) one and a half-story frame structure multiple clipped gables. Lot No. 8.

Duhring Avenue

45. THOMAS GARAGE/APARTMENT--ca. 1909-12 (Pivotal) matches main house in Revival Tudor style with red tile roof, "half-timbering," and stonework. Two-story gabled structure; three-car garage on first floor; apartment on second with large stone fireplace, heavy oak rafters, and a cork floor. Dormers project from roof. Lot No. 8.1.

46. PILGRIM HOLINESS/WESLEYAN CHURCH PARSONAGE--ca. 1900 (Contributing) two-story dwelling with several cross gables; triangular small gable appears porch supported by very tall, thin round columns. Aluminum siding. Lot No. 10.

47. GODFREY/JONES HOUSE--ca. 1900 (Contributing) two and a half-story square dwelling with four wide crossing gables. Bay window from first floor to second on left front' porch stretches from bay to right corner. A single story with a large exterior chimney has been added to the front right corner. Aluminum siding. Lot No. 11.

48. HOUSE, Duhring Avenue--ca. 1900 (Contributing) one and a half-story rectangular gabled dwelling, a large and a small dormer project from roof on front. Small beveled glass windows to the basement are present in the stone foundation. House was reportedly moved from original site on Pocahontas Avenue at front of Thomas property 1909. Aluminum siding. Lot No. 13.

49. SCHOEN HOUSE--ca. 1895 (Contributing) two and a half-story frame gabled foursquare dwelling. Porch stretches across entire front; balustrade and decorative posts support porch roof; aluminum siding. Lot No. 15.

50. INTRUSION--HOUSE Duhring Avenue--ca 1940's- one-story shallow gabled stucco dwelling. Lot No. 16.

51. HOUSE, Duhring Avenue - before 1930 - (Contributing)

51. (Cont'd) one and a half-story dwelling with Swedish gabrel roof; dormers; porch on front; aluminum siding. Lot No. 17.

52. BAKER HOUSE--ca. 1895 (Contributing) two and a half-story frame dwelling characterized by a low hipped roof and several dormers; irregular assymmetrical plan; two separate porches - one with paired columns, the other missing its columns and temporarily supported by other means. Several large windows appear in three parts - a large window in the center with sidelights. The upper sashes of these windows are divided by diamond shaped lights. Lot No. 18.

53. MORTON HOUSE--ca. 1900 (Contributing) two-story square frame dwelling with low hipped roof and small center front dormer. Porch extends across front with thin fanned posts and balustrades. Lot No. 21.

54. FRANK HEWITT HOUSE--ca. 1900 (Contributing) two and a half-story clipped gable dwelling with side dormers. Porch which stretches across front has been filled in. Aluminum siding. Lot No. 22.

Wyatt Street

55. BUCK/BOWEN--ca. 1900 (Pivotal) large two-story frame dwelling; gabled and hipped roof, gabled projecting pavillion at front [illegible], bay on first floor center. Large porch extends across entire front and projects a curve to correspond with the bay and pavillion. Tall slender columns support porch. Square window appears in gable of a corresponding gabled pavillion at rear of house. Many windows have diamond-shaped lights in upper sashes. The den has walls covered in leather. House greatly embellished in the 1930's. Lot No. 23.

56. MANY PLAYHOUSE--ca. 1910 (Pivotal) a frame one and a half-story structure with clipped gable, triple, sash windows in gable, long front porch with massive stone round posts. Main room has large stone fireplace. First used as a playhouse, then remodeled in 1940's to a regular dwelling by addition of several rooms behind the A-frame, resulting in an irregular plan. (Duhring Street) Lot No. 19.

57. PLAYHOUSE GARAGE--(Contributing) one-story frame gabled garage. Lot No. 24.

Wyatt Street

58. INTRUSION--ca. 1962 - Brick two-story gabled cottage with extension and garage. Lot No. 29.

59. INTRUSION--ca. 1965 - one-story brick ranch style dwelling.

60. PRESBYTERIAN MANSE--ca. 1911 (Contributing) square two-story cross gabled dwelling. Small diamond-shaped windows on sides on second floor near eaves of gable. Porch across front of house; aluminum siding. Lot No. 26.

Dubring Avenue

61. INTRUSION--mobile home. Lot No. 27.

62. INTRUSION--mobile home. Lot No. 27.

63. INTRUSION--mobile home. Lot No. 27.

64. HOUSE- before 1930 (Contributing) probably a service building converted to a dwelling; small, rectangular with hipped roof with flared eaves; aluminum siding. Lot No. 28

65. MAHN GARDINER HOUSE--ca. 1915 (Contributing) two-story frame dwelling with gable facing street and roof with a sloping concave profile. Stone foundation; porch extends across front with square posts and a balustrade. A one-story extension has been added to the right side.

66. INTRUSION--Rectangular one-story frame; greatly remodeled; dwelling.

67. INTRUSION--Small gabled frame dwelling; front porch billed in.

68. HOUSE- before 1930 (Contributing) two-story gabled dwelling; stone foundation; partial porch, rest of porch filled in; aluminum siding.

69. SHED/GARAGE - before 1930 (Contributing) one-story with catslide roof, front gable and a rear extension; aluminum siding.

70. DWELLING- before 1930 (Contributing) two-story small gabled building, probably formerly used as servants' quarters for Freeman house. Original siding; second story porch with posts and balustrade. Lot No. 145.

71. FREEMAN HOUSE--began ca. 1891 (Pivotal) very large rambling three-story frame dwelling with a complicated roofline of hips and gables. Only half of the house existed approximately between 1893 and 1906 when the large addition of the right or south side of the house was probably made, according to comparisons of old photographs. A two-story projecting pavilion appears near the front center and is topped by a balcony and balustrade. A front porch extends the entire width and encircles the right side. Over the porch on the right corner is a hipped projecting pavilion which has a casement window. There are several tall slender chimneys, and on the north side of the house is a large patio and fence of stone. Two one-story extensions which may have been service areas are attached to the right and rear of the house. The house has been sectioned into apartments in recent years. Lot No. 145.

72. KELLER/PRITCHARD HOUSE--ca. 1893-96 (Contributing) two and a half-story four square gabled dwelling. A two-story extension has been added toward the rear of the building on the right side, and it has a hipped roof. A porch extends across entire front supported by decorative posts with gingerbread brackets and balustrades. Shingles appear in the gables, the house has been aluminum sided. Decorative wrought iron fence borders property. Lot No. 146.

Church Street

73. House, rear Keller/Pritchard lot, facing Church Street - ca. 1893-96 (Contributing) one and a half-story frame gabled ell dwelling with a couple of dormers. Full roofed porch on front with slender posts and a balustrade. Lot No. 146.

74. Former Holy Trinity Episcopal Church - ca. 1893 (Pivotal) frame gabled building with a modified cross plan. Entry is a small gabled projection in the center of the facade. Above this small gable is a casement of four tall windows with panes of colored glass. The design of the panes creates a pointed arch within the window. This repeats in the windows all around the church. The eaves of the gables of the building and the entry projection are trimmed with a gingerbread vergeboard. A one-story "bayed" turret projects from the front left-hand corner with a conical roof. A tall polygonal tower with a tall tent roof is characterized by "pagoda-like" openings around its body. It appears also on the left side between the small turret and the north transept. Inside, slender wooden beams cross near the crest of the gable, creating an "A-frame" effect within the nave. Six round windows with colored panes are arranged in a circle above the altar on the west wall. Lot No. 147.

75. Former Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Parsonage - c. 1897 (Contributing) two and a half foursquare gabled dwelling. Porch with slender posts and balustrade extends across half of front. A small one-story bay window appears to right of porch. Aluminum sided. Lot No. 148.

76. Main Street Bridge, 1915 (Contributing) - Pratt Pony Truss bridge with fine masonry abutments. Arch-typical of the a popular bridge type of the pre-World War I era.

77. Pedestrian Bridge, c. 1910 (Contributing) pedestrian Warren Truss type metal bridge built c. 1910 at behest of I.T. Mann to connect his residence with his children's playhouse across the Bluestone River.

78. Bloch Street Bridge, 1949 (Intrusive), concrete bridge of more recent construction. While not really of an intrusive nature, it none-the-less does not contribute to the character of the district.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion	
___ 1400-1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science	
___ 1500-1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture	
___ 1600-1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian	
___ 1700-1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater	
X 1800-1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation	
X 1900-	___ communications	X industry	X politics/government	X other (specify) local history	
		___ invention			

Specific dates 1885 - 1930 **Builder/Architect** N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Bramwell is extremely significant to the history of West Virginia and to the nation because it represents the opulence of the era at the turn of the century when an individual, often an immigrant to the U.S., could obtain large fortunes through his own wit and the long hours of the laboring class. As a town planned by coal land investors and coal mining operators, the Bramwell historic district was the only location specifically designed to be a residential area inhabitited by the elite populace of the Pocahontas Coalfield. Whereas nearby Bluefield, West Virginia, basically began as a supply center for the mining operations of the coalfield, the Bramwell historic district became a place where coal operators could be near their mining operations without actually living in the mining camps they originated. The operators chose the finest materials to build grand homes, which combined with the beautiful trees and surrounding hills make the Bramwell historic district a very striking location even today.

The story of the Pocahontas Coalfield, renowned nation-wide for its ten-foot seams and high quality coal, began in 1883 when the first carload of coal was shipped by the Norfolk and Western Railroad from Pocahontas, Virginia (located a few miles southwest of Bramwell) to Norfolk, Virginia. In 1884 a group of Philadelphia financiers began buying great quantities of coal lands along the Bluestone River in Mercer County under the name of the Bluestone Coal Company. This organization under its local manager O.H. Duhring, planned the town of Bramwell and established its headquarters there in 1885. Duhring, in fact, built the first house there, which no longer stands. Many of the company's engineers and draftsmen soon moved into Bramwell, directing the company's leases to coal operators. The Bluestone Coal became part of the Flat Top Coal Land Association, the largest holder of coal lands in the Pocahontas Coalfield. The Land Association maintained its office in Bramwell for many years even after it was reorganized and changed its name to the Pocahontas Coal and Coke Company.

Bramwell was named for another coal land investor, J.H. Bramwell, probably because he was the town's first postmaster. The town grew quickly and was incorporated in 1889. By 1896 it reached it peak in population with over 4,000 residents. After the mining towns of Coopers and Freeman were incorporated into Bramwell, it had the distinction of having three separate post offices within its corporate limits, unusual for a town of its size. Bramwell was a "spur" stop on the railroad; trains had to make special trips to it because it was not on the main line of the railroad. Even so, there are reports of up to fourteen trains a day going in and out of Bramwell during its heyday.

In addition to the Land offices, several other coal companies maintained offices in Bramwell, including the Pocahontas Company, the marketing organization for Pocahontas coal, located in the Masonic Hall. Dry good and grocery stores also appeared

in the business block on Main Street, and the Bryant and Newbold Pharmacy at the corner of Main and Bloch Streets carried the distinction of being the third drugstore in the U.S. to sell the exotic perfume Channel No. 5, probably prompted by its wealthy clientel. By 1906 the town had four churches, two of which are within the historic district and a grade school which sat on a hill above the historic district to the northeast. This building burned in the early 1940's.

The Bank of Bramwell, famous because it supposedly was at one time the richest bank of its size in the United States, was charteredin 1889. Located a block from the railroad station, several Bramwell residents recall that the black janitor of the bank used to roll money in a wheelbarrow down the street with an armed guard by his side, to board it on a train. The bank also reportedly financed the building of the Burning Tree Country Club of Washington, D.C., and did purchase the site of the West Virginia Capitol building in downtown Charleston after that capitol burned in 1921.

Several of the earlier notable buildings were built by doctors, coal mine proprietors, and the Land Company's officers, but these were modest when compared to the mansions built by coal operators between 1900 and 1915. These homes and the men who built them represent a second phase of prosperity in the Pocahontas Coalfield. The actual opening of the mines in the coalfield at the beginning of the early 1880's was the first phase, but actually managing them and creating fortunes was another. The great houses in Bramwell signify the latter phase. They were owned by men who had not only begun enterprises but had maintained them very successfully. The homes they built are evidence of their incredibly large incomes. It is said that at least thirteen millionaires were living in Bramwell in 1915.

Edward Cooper one of Bramwell's most prominent citizens, was the son of John Cooper, the first man to open a mine on the Pocahontas Coalfield, at Mill Creek in 1884. John Cooper had been an immigrant from England whose father had been killed while mining there. John Cooper worked as a miner in Pennsylvania and opened mining operations in Fayette County, West Virginia, before staking all his funds on the Mill Creek opening. The mine was successful and son Edward became general manager of his father's mines around the turn of the century, moving his own family to Bramwell around 1900. Edward was an influential town councilman for several years and he served two terms as a U.S. Congressman from West Virginia's 5th congressional district, 1915-1919. He built the grand copper roofed Queen Anne-style house in 1910 and the bungalow next to it for his son, Edward Jr., around 1920.

John Davis Hewitt was another immigrant from England who worked his way up in the mines in America. He became a mining engineer and arrived in the Pocahontas Coalfield in 1886. He discovered the seam which became the Buckeye mines. By 1896 he had become the vice-president and general manager of Buckeye Coal and Coke.

John Hewitt brought his family to live about a mile from Bramwell near the Buckeye mines. Around 1890 they moved to Bramwell as other operators did when they, too, began to prosper. John Hewitt was very active in Bramwell's civic affairs in addition to his mine operating duties. He was the first mayor of Bramwell and was one of the founding members of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church of Bramwell. He seems to have played a key role in the building of Bramwell Masonic Temple in 1893. By the time of his death, in 1903, he had become a director of the Pocahontas Company.

Ten years after her husband's death, Mrs. Katherine Hewitt decided to build a new house which is the charming transitional cottage so familiar in Bramwell today. She bought the house next door to the right of her own frame house on the corner of Main and South River Streets and had them both torn down to make room for the new house. She then hired the Philadelphia architectural firm of DeArmond, Ashmead, and Bickley to design the house in 1914. Mrs. Hewitt was from Pennsylvania, and the fact that she hired a Philadelphia firm to do the planning illustrates an important point of Bramwell's social life. Many coal operators' wives were from Pennsylvania, particularly of the Philadelphia area. There almost seems to have been an attempt on the part of the operators to overcompensate for the lack of "society" in southern West Virginia at the time by building large homes with the finest materials available and the most modern conveniences. Women in Bramwell in effect attempted to recreate Philadelphia's social life by hosting many elaborate parties. It was almost essential to have a town such as Bramwell with a controlled social atmosphere amid luxury in order to satisfy a transplanted managerial class.

Philip Goodwill, general manager and son of the immigrant who started the Goodwill Coal and Coke Company, built a house in Bramwell in 1894 which was a basic American homestead style structure. When the Goodwill family sold their mines and Philip became president of the Pocahontas Company in 1905, he enlarged his house by adding a third floor ballroom and a Queen Anne turret. Philip's wife Phoebe was the prime example of a former Pennsylvanian who adored parties and an active social life. She was one of several hostesses in Bramwell who often imported special foods and caterers from cities as far away as Cincinnati by train.

William H. Thomas' life sounds like the typical turn-of-the-century "rags to riches" story. He was born in Wales and immigrated to Pennsylvania with his family when he was six years old. As a teenager he worked several odd jobs, including that of a newspaper carrier, clerk, and mechanic before coming to the Pocahontas Company. In 1887 he married Annie Cooper, daughter of Mill Creek Coal and Coke Company founder John Cooper. In 1889 he was appointed manager of John Cooper's Company stores and in 1890 he became the general manager of Algoma Coal and Coke Company, an interest he had helped organize. Thomas became the owner of several other coal companies and by 1909 he had amassed such a fortune that he was able to spend approximately $95,000 on the large Tudor Revival house which sits on a hill overlooking downtown Bramwell. It has been reported by a resident of Bramwell that Mrs. Thomas imported Italian masons expressly for the purpose of constructing the fine stonework of the house and property retaining wall, excellent examples of the fine masonry executed by Italian immigrants throughout the coalfield.

Many stories have been told about happenings in Bramwell and collectively these form a sort of Bramwell folklore. One story, which may be entirely true, states that when one of the Thomas daughters were married, a rose trellis was stretched from the house all the way to the wedding at the Presbyterian church, and a red carpet was rolled from the church around the corner and down the block to the train station.

Stories have also circulated about Isaac T. Mann, another Bramwell millionaire. A native of Greenbrier County, West Virginia, Mann was an extremely powerful figure in the Pocahontas Coalfield, having been the chief organizer of the Pocahontas Fuel Company and the president of the Bank of Bramwell. He is responsible for the rise of that bank to a quite formidable institution. Mann and his family lived in Bramwell for more than twenty years, dividing their time between Bramwell, a summer home in Massachusetts, and a five-story house (later converted into an embassy) in Washington, D.C. The Mann home in Bramwell was remodeled from a previous structure in 1909 to include a polygonal sided turret. Mann also built his children a playhouse across the river from the main house. This is no ordinary playhouse as it was later remodeled and made into a regular residence by E.L. Keesling, who also planted many beautiful flower gardens on the playhouse grounds and then charged admission for the public to view them in the 1950's.

Mann also gave the handsome bluestone church building to the Presbyterian congregation in 1902. According to a survivor of Mann's, he regretted it later when he heard people refer to the building as "Mr. Mann's church". He is still strongly identified with that church.

The 1930's depression which was hard felt in the coalfield was particularly painful to Mann. He had invested in properties in other locations and lost heavily after 1929. One source says that he was worth 78 million dollars one day and owed 81 million dollars the next. Regardless of the hard times which befell Isaac T. Mann, he seems to be the only person identified with the Pocahontas Coalfield in the early years who was listed in an edition of Who Was Who in America. He was a leading candidate for the U.S. Senatorship in 1913, but failed of election. The town of Itmann in Wyoming County was named for him.

The nationwide depression and subsequent closing of the Bank of Bramwell in the early 1930's signalled the end of an era in Bramwell. This was followed by the demolition of the Bluestone Inn. The railroad station was abandoned and torn down sometime in the 1950's. Several operators lost control of their large sums, like Isaac T. Mann, or were forced to sell their mines. Many families and proprietors moved away from Bramwell.

One life-long resident states that "Bramwell is certainly not the town it once was". Even so, Bramwell has stayed remarkably well-preserved, today mainly serving as a residential town for retired persons and people who work in nearby

Bluefield or Princeton. A renewed interest in the history and architecture of Bramwell has brought new residents who are working to restore structures to their original grandeur. Long-time residents have made a successful effort to maintain their homes. The result is very satisfying and rewarding. Bramwell may not experience the traffic and "bustle" it once did, but the fine buildings remain as monuments to a time when an immigrant miner's family could turn a small amount of capital into a veritable fortune, keeping in mind the countless hours of drudgery that were spent by many laborers contributing to that fortune. Bramwell's elegance survives as a generous remnant of West Virginia's version of the "gilded age".

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Verbal boundary description and justification (Continued)

corporate boundary of the Town of Bramwell, inclusive of Lots No. 147 and No. 148 belonging to the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church; proceeding southwest in a straight line 2000 feet to a point intersecting with Mercer County Route 20/17; thence northwest in a straight line 1500 feet to the extreme southwest end of Bloch Street, and thence in a line approximatly 500 feet along the northwest of Bloch Street to the Bluestone River; thence along the southern bank of the Bluestone River approximatly 500 feet; thence due north in a straight line approximatly 700 feet to the point of origin (City Hall, Lot No. 6).

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 55 acres
Quadrangle name Bramwell, W.Va.-Va. Quadrangle scale 1: 24,000'

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification Inclusive of Lot No. 6 at the Northwest corner of Main Street and the Norfolk and Western Railroad Line (City Hall) and proceeding along the railroad right-of-way to the south bank of the Bluestone River; proceeding east along the south bank of the Bluestone River in a straight line to a point intersecting with the

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county		code
state		code	county		code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Beth Hager, Preservation Consultant		
organization	Historic Preservation Unit W.Va. Dept. of Culture & History	date	October 30, 1982
street & number	The Cultural Center Capitol Complex	telephone	(304) 348-0240
city or town	Charleston	state	West Virginia

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national X state ___ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Commissioner, W.Va. Department of Culture and History date December 21, 1982

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register date 2/10/83

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

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As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural and cultural resources. This includes fostering wise use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The department also promotes the goals of the Take Pride in America campaign by encouraging stewardship and citizen responsibility for the public lands and promoting citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

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ROUTE 120
BLUESTONE AVENUE
BLUESTONE RIVER
WESTERN
Garage and Gas station
NORFOLK RAILROAD
NORTH RIVER STREET
MAIN STREET
CHURCH STREET
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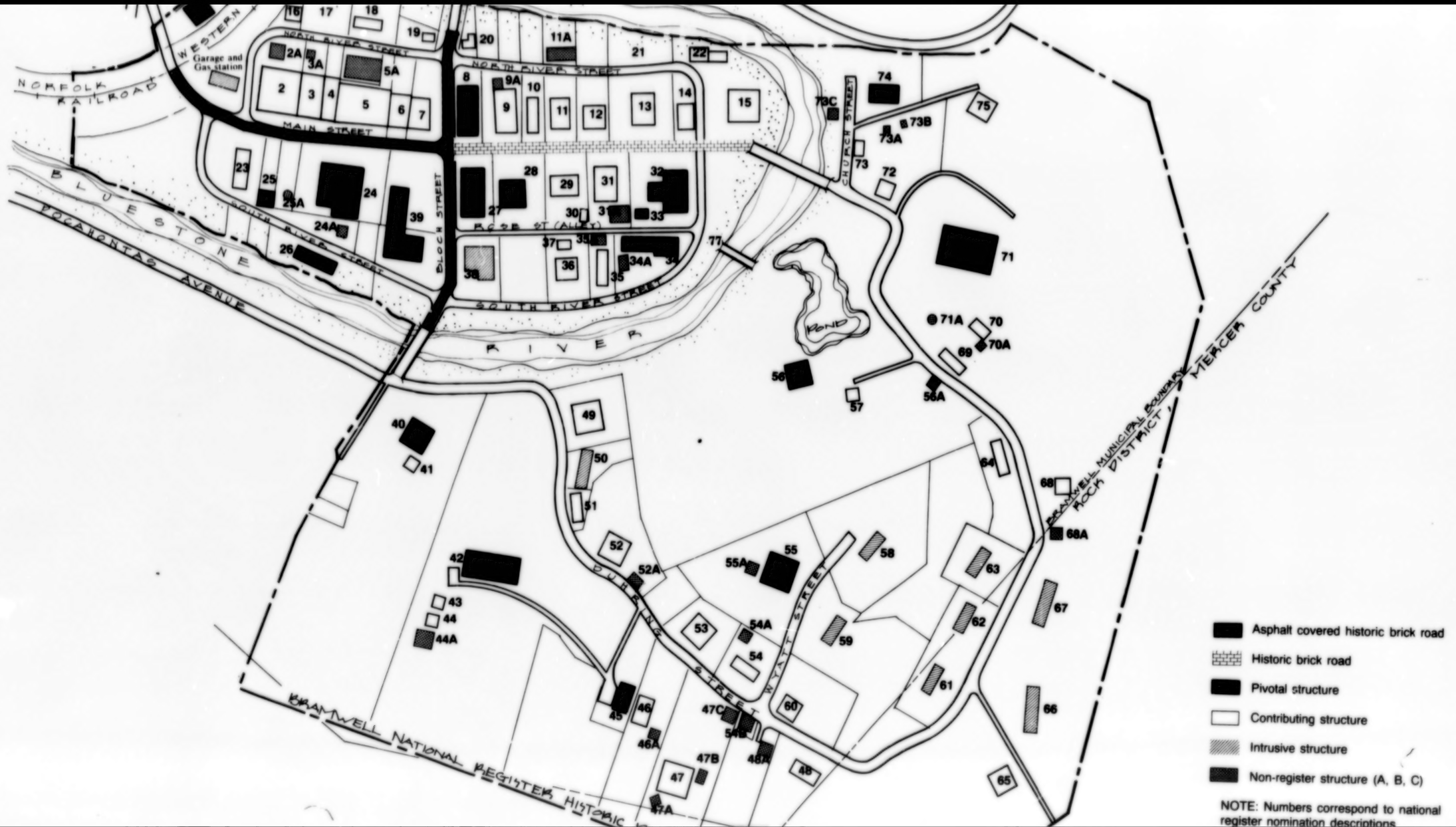
NORFOLK RAILROAD
WESTERN
Garage and Gas station
NORTH RIVER STREET
MAIN STREET
SOUTH RIVER STREET
BLUE STONE
POCAHONTAS AVENUE
BLOCK STREET
CHURCH STREET
POND
RIVER
BURNING STREET
WYATT STREET
BRAMWELL NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC
BRAMWELL MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY
MERCER COUNTY
ROCK DISTRICT
Asphalt covered historic brick road
Historic brick road
Pivotal structure
Contributing structure
Intrusive structure
Non-register structure (A, B, C)
NOTE: Numbers correspond to national register nomination descriptions

Asphalt covered historic brick road

Historic brick road

Pivotal structure

Contributing structure

Intrusive structure

Non-register structure (A, B, C)

NOTE: Numbers correspond to national register nomination descriptions

National Register Historic District
Bramwell, West Virginia

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United States Department of the Interior • National Park Service

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